

# Student Safety & Well-Being



**AESD** ASSOCIATION OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE DISTRICTS

Nine ESDs. One Network.  
Supporting Washington's Schools and Communities.

## EXPAND AND MAINTAIN STUDENT BEHAVIORAL & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

2023 legislative request:  
**+ \$24.3M/biennium**



**Half the children in the United States with treatable mental health disorders do not receive adequate treatment.**



**Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Washington youth ages 10–24.**

In response to the global pandemic, the federal government provided states with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. These funds enabled schools to safely reopen and to help meet the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students in the wake of COVID-19.

The Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Network launched the Behavioral Health COVID Project at 51 schools across Washington to increase services for students who need them most. In the first year, it has already led to improved outcomes:



**39% more** students now report they are doing "pretty well."



**94%+** of school partner survey respondents report these services are very important or of the highest importance and are helpful for students.

ESSER funding is coming to an end. But we need to keep this momentum going.

### We must continue:

- Building connections to national mental health initiatives and funding.
- Coordinating all AESD Network student safety and well-being initiatives.
- Increasing capacity of Regional School Safety Centers.

Expanding student behavioral health supports and services.

Our goal is to **EXPAND** direct student behavioral and mental health services to more than 30 additional school sites statewide and **MAINTAIN** the 51 school sites we currently serve.

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## EXPAND REGIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER CAPACITY

2023 legislative request:  
**+ \$4.4M/biennium**



**Students must feel safe — physically, emotionally, socially, behaviorally, and academically — so they have a sense of well-being and can focus on learning.**

Creating a safe, supportive climate for students, staff, and visitors takes planning and access to intervention when needed.

In 2019, the Legislature invested in HB 1216, which established a statewide network of **regional school safety centers** operated by a partnership between the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Network.



*Expanding regional school safety center capacity will enable ESDs to provide additional support when more significant problems arise.*

## Regional School Safety Center Staff:



**Coordinate** access to behavioral health services to keep students engaged in school.



**Provide** training & technical assistance, as well as emergency preparedness and crisis response & recovery support to school districts in each ESD region.



**Work** with schools and the community to break negative patterns and impact youth in a positive way.