

Behavioral Health Navigators

The Children's Behavioral Health Workgroup, formed in 2016 by the legislature, was tasked with identifying barriers to children's behavioral health services. Their recommendations to the legislature included strategies for improving access and coordination in early learning, K–12 education, and health care systems. One of the workgroup's recommendations created the OSPI Children's Regional Behavioral Health Pilot Project authorized by [RCW 28A.630.500](#). A legislative report in December 2019 [Legislative Report](#) addresses the pilot learnings. Positions were established in all 9 ESDs in HB 1216, School Safety and Student Wellbeing (2019) and funded in the 2020 budget.

Each ESD currently has a Behavioral Health Navigator providing services and supports to school districts in their respective region. Over the course of the past 18 months, they have been conducting interviews with each school district to collect data on existing barriers to accessing behavioral health services for students. This data will inform their work. The current work is inclusive of the following:

- Navigators are currently conducting district interviews using the interview protocol developed during the pilot project and modified in fall of 2020 to include an equity and racial justice lens.
- These interviews seek to inform the Navigator about existing barriers and specific needs of a district in accessing equitable behavioral health supports for students.
- Navigators meet weekly to collaborate and share resources, engage in technical assistance and trainings with regional/state partners and subject matter experts.
- Navigators are conducting suicide prevention trainings for districts across their regions.
- Navigators are supporting schools with their plans for recognition, screening, and response as required by [RCW. 28A.320.127](#).
- Navigators are trained in Lifelines Trilogy curriculum as an additional resource to provide comprehensive support to school districts in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
- The Navigators in partnership with Forefront Suicide Prevention created a *Postvention Toolkit* that will serve as a resource in supporting schools/districts following a death by suicide or other needed crisis response.

Below is the Behavioral Health Navigator Contact in each of the nine ESDs across the state:

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