



# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*An education system where students are engaged in personalized education pathways that prepare them for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning*

## DRAFT MENTAL HEALTH RESOLUTION

To be considered for adoption on March 14, 2019

WHEREAS the safety and well-being of Washington students is a high priority of the state;

WHEREAS Governor Inslee's Proposed 2019-2021 Budget promotes a transformation of the behavioral health system both within education and the broader state framework;

WHEREAS school psychologists are critical to supporting the needs of students who have experienced adverse childhood experiences but are sometimes staffed at a level below one psychologist per district;

WHEREAS the State Board of Education recognizes that administrative mental health training is vital as they face the day-to-day task of supporting student mental health needs that often exceed their capacity;

WHEREAS the average ratio across Washington school districts does not meet the ASCA recommended ratio of at least one counselor for every 250 students despite funding of at least that level in high school in the prototypical school funding formula;

WHEREAS mental health is a prevalent challenge for many youth but is often misunderstood by educators and student peers, and research from the National Alliance on Mental Health shows that one in five youth experience mental health issues;

WHEREAS the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention released data from 2017 showing that one person dies by suicide every eight hours in Washington and that suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 15-24;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Board of Education will work alongside the Association of Washington Student Leaders and the Board's two student representatives to develop a proposal for consideration by the state legislature and Governor Jay Inslee to significantly improve mental health services in Washington's K-12 public schools, including, but not limited to:

- creation of a statewide flexible mental health campaign (including a set of foundational rules for the campaign and a public resource list) to be conducted in ALL school districts;
- revising mental health learning standards and proposing new curriculum;
- increasing the number of psychologists, counselors and mental health professionals in schools, consistent with ratios recommended by ASCA and the needs of students; and
- creation of district mental health training seminars to support administrative involvement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education will actively recruit partner organizations to support and advocate for approval of the proposal by the legislature and Governor Inslee.