

HB 2239: Supporting Student Well-Being through Instruction in Social-Emotional Skills

WHAT DOES HB 2239 DO?

- Encourages school districts and public schools to provide instruction on skills that promote social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health and wellness.
 - Provides funding to schools for the development and implementation of curriculum that promotes social and emotional well-being.
 - Funding will be prioritized for schools in marginalized, low income and rural communities.
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TALKING POINTS

- Over half of adolescents in WA experience anxiety and depression
- In Washington state, an average of 2.6 youth between the ages of 10 to 24 die by suicide each week
- Our state ranks among the highest in the nation of prevalence of youth experiencing mental health issues (39th)
- Social and emotional skills help reduce aggression, bullying, anxiety and depression, suicide ideation and substance abuse
- Studies show that social-emotional skills such as problem-solving, self-regulation, impulse control, and empathy help improve academics performance, reduce dropout rates and create positive classroom climates
- Social and emotional skills help improve resiliency, college and career readiness, school safety and staff retention
- Many schools in Washington state lack the resources and capacity to provide social-emotional instruction to students
- Social and emotional curriculum must be research-based, developmentally and linguistically appropriate and culturally sensitive.