

PERFORMANCE AUDIT

Work in progress: Audit description



Office of the
Washington
State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

School Safety Planning Follow-up

Comprehensive school safety planning is necessary to support students' sense of well-being and create a safe learning environment. Both an increase in mass shootings in schools nationwide and regional disasters have made school safety planning an area of concern. In 2019, our Office published a performance audit of School Safety Planning best practices.

In 2021, the Legislature funded regional school safety coordinator positions at each Educational Service District (ESD) to increase districts' use of best practices in school safety. The coordinators are responsible for helping deliver required trainings, providing technical assistance to school districts, and developing collaborative relationships with stakeholders. Regional school safety centers are intended to provide support in many areas of safety including emergency operations, threat assessments and behavioral health supports.

Because school safety remains an ongoing concern, this follow-up audit will review what steps have been taken within each ESD to improve school safety and identify where gaps persist. The results will offer stakeholders an overview of what school safety supports have been provided to school districts since the requirement to establish the regional centers went into effect.

Preliminary scope and objectives

This performance audit follows up on recommendations from the 2019 School Safety Planning audit that were intended to improve regional coordination. The audit will examine what steps the regional school safety coordinators at each ESD have taken to address safety gaps, including those identified in the first audit.

The audit will answer the following question:

- What actions have Educational Service Districts taken to address safety gaps in their regions?

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