

## **E-prep Legislative Update** – 9/25/2020, submitted by Robin Zaback

### **WSPTA Legislative Assembly**

WSPTA Legislative Assembly is coming up 10/24-25! This year, we will be selecting our legislative platform for the next two years. There are a number of school safety-related issues under consideration:

- Safe school plans and emergency preparedness
- Increase access to nursing, mental health, and Social Emotional Learning staff
- Prevent and reduce gun violence and suicide

Ways to support these issues becoming part of the WSPTA platform:

1. Complete the WSPTA Legislative Survey and let your local leaders know that you prioritize school safety (so that hopefully they will too when they cast their votes!!) Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K69HHT6> (and be sure to fill it out for every PTA you are a member!)
2. Attend Legislative Assembly as a delegate! Talk with your PTA/PTSA president/board and let them know you want to be a voting delegate. The cost this year is only \$25/person and it is all virtual. Registration info available here: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/legislative-assembly/general-information/>

### **OSPI School Safety and Student Well Being Advisory Committee**

Last met on June 11, 2020. It was a closed meeting, limited to committee members and special guests—not open to public. Meeting notes available here:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/safetycenter/pubdocs/SS-SWAC%20Meeting%20Notes%2006-11-20.pdf>

There is a hiring freeze to budget shortfalls in the wake of COVID-19. So—the budget proviso that passed regarding funding for the School Safety Center positions in every Educational Service District is on hold. The funding was to support hiring two positions in each ESD: 1. Someone to support our local schools with implementing threat assessment protocols and 2. A Behavioral Health Navigator who is to provide resources/supports to schools for behavioral and mental health issues/needs.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) published their report on the first responder mapping system currently used across the state in K-12 schools. They found only 80% of school districts and 70% of law enforcement agency responders use the system. And—only 33%-53% intend to actually use it during an incident. Their recommendation is organizations need to do more on training and use of the system (so it gets used as it should) and that there needs to be a better process in place for ensuring that the system stays current with technology and data collection (which is part of why peeps aren't using it).

Report available here: [http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2020/mapping/f\\_3/default.html](http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2020/mapping/f_3/default.html)