

**RCW 43.20A.765 Mental health first aid training for teachers and educational staff.** Subject to appropriation for this specific purpose, the department shall provide funds for mental health first aid training targeted at teachers and educational staff. The training will follow the model developed by the department of psychology in Melbourne, Australia. Instruction provided will describe common mental disorders that arise in youth, their possible causes and risk factors, the availability of evidence-based medical, psychological, and alternative treatments, processes for making referrals for behavioral health services, and methods to effectively render assistance in both initial intervention and crisis situations. The department shall collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public instruction to identify sites and methods of instruction that leverage local resources to the extent possible for the purpose of making the mental health first aid training broadly available. [2013 c 197 § 9.]

**Finding—Intent—2013 c 197:** "(1) The legislature finds that a lack of information about mental health problems among the general public leads to stigmatizing attitudes and prevents people from seeking help early and seeking the best sort of help. It also prevents people from providing support to family members, friends, and colleagues because they might not know what to do. This lack of knowledge about mental health problems limits the initial accessibility of evidence-based treatments and leads to a lack of support for people with a mental disorder from family, friends, and other members of the community.

(2) The focus on training for teachers and educational staff is intended to provide opportunities for early intervention when the first signs of developing mental illness may be recognized in children, teens, and young adults, so that appropriate referrals may be made to evidence-based behavioral health services." [2013 c 197 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—2013 c 197:** See note following RCW 28A.410.226.

*Civil liability—2013 c 197: See RCW 28A.310.501.*