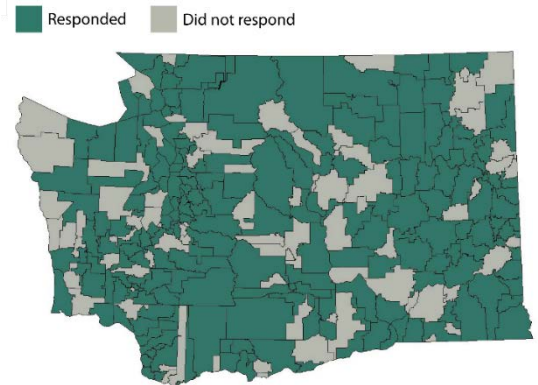


At the Legislature's request, staff of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) inventoried mental health services available to students through schools, school districts, and educational service districts (ESDs). JLARC staff completed the inventory primarily through a survey of school districts, supplemented by interviews and analysis of existing data. The survey asked questions about what services are provided, who provides them, where they are provided, and who pays.

Three-quarters of school districts (218 of 295) completed the survey. The data in the inventory represent 85% of enrolled students and 83% of public schools (1,985 of 2,392) in Washington.



## Access the inventory through JLARC's online report

The online report includes summary information and topic-specific tables. These tables include data about multi-tiered systems of support, service models, funding, and barriers. Comments from districts and ESDs provide additional context. Readers can sort, filter, and review the data, or download the complete data files. The report is online at <http://bit.ly/JLARCmInventory>.

## Inventory highlights

- 191 districts report that some or all of their schools have a basic level of mental health services that focuses on prevention and promoting positive behaviors (65% of all districts).
- Districts report that screening for mental health concerns occurs in 1,844 schools (77% of all schools).
- Districts report that students receive mental health services, such as therapies, in their communities and in schools:
  - At 1,411 schools, services are provided in the community (59% of all schools).
  - At 796 schools, services are provided in the school by a community provider (33% of all schools).
  - At 448 schools, services are provided in the school by a district or ESD employee (19% of all schools).
- Districts report that funding comes from a variety of sources, regardless of where service is provided:
  - Private insurance funds services for students at 942 schools (39% of all schools).
  - Medicaid funds services for students at 863 schools (36% of all schools).
  - Other: Levy dollars fund services for students at 240 schools and dedicated county sales taxes fund services for students at 221 schools.
- Districts report that students experience various barriers to accessing mental health services. Barriers include transportation, lack of providers, and affordability of private insurance co-pays.

## Medicaid funds some school-based mental health services

In 2015, of the 1.1 million students in public schools, 55,000 (5%) received Medicaid-funded mental health services. Most of these students were served outside their schools through managed care plans and publicly-funded mental health and substance abuse treatment centers. Approximately 10,000 of the students (1%) received Medicaid-funded mental health services in their schools. School districts receive reimbursement from Medicaid for certain services through contracts with the Health Care Authority.