

**WSR 22-05-034**  
**PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY**  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF**  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

[Filed February 7, 2022, 7:00 p.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: WAC 392-401-020 Excused absences, proposing to include mental health as an excusable absence.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 28A.300.046.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: The office of superintendent of public instruction (OSPI) is considering rule making to include mental health as an excusable absence under WAC 392-401-020. Currently, the WAC section includes physical health illnesses, appointments, and treatments. Including language specifying mental health would make clear that mental health has as much significance as physical health and is similarly important to one's overall wellbeing. In addition, the ability to compile data concerning absences due to mental health will provide important information in developing and improving strategies for student support systems.

Process for Developing New Rule: Early solicitation of feedback and recommendations respecting new or amended rules, and consideration of the comments and recommendations in the course of drafting rules.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Krissy Johnson, Attendance and Engagement, OSPI, P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504, phone 360-725-6045, TTY 360-664-3631, email [krissy.johnson@k12.wa.us](mailto:krissy.johnson@k12.wa.us), website [k12.wa.us](http://k12.wa.us); or Bridget Underdahl, Attendance and Engagement, OSPI, P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504, phone 360-790-0527, TTY 360-664-3631, email [bridget.underdahl@k12.wa.us](mailto:bridget.underdahl@k12.wa.us), website [k12.wa.us](http://k12.wa.us).

February 2, 2022.  
Chris P. S. Reykdal  
State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction