



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

**FROM:** Charlene Ramont, Interim Director

**RE:** Northwest Educational Services District (ESD) 189 – Behavioral Health Services  
Interlocal Agreement

**DATE:** MAY 21, 2025

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Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Northwest ESD 189 for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

Services funded by this contract will support a Student Assistance Professional in the Nooksack Valley School District. The Professional will provide substance use disorder prevention services necessary to contribute to the improvement of student behavioral health outcomes. The NWESD 189's Student Assistance Program is an evidence-based and cost-beneficial program designed to support a range of behavioral health needs and increase access to critical school and community services. NWESD 189 continues to exceed expected service levels and demonstrate positive outcomes that meet identified goals.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$121,000, is provided by the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (\$79,809.40) and the Behavioral Health Program Fund (\$41,190.60). These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, funding for these services has been provided through similar contracts between Whatcom County and NWESD 189 since 2014. This contract removes mental health services but otherwise includes no significant changes between this contract and the contract ending on 08/31/2025 (WC Contract #202106020).

Please contact Amanda Burnett, Human Services Supervisor at 360-778-6069 ([ABurnett@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:ABurnett@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions.

Encl.

