Expanding Student Mental Health Supports: State Actions and Opportunities

JULY 11, 2022
COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

NASBE
National Association of State Boards of Education
Increased need
Mental health related ER visits increased
24% for 5- to 11-year-olds and
31% for 12- to 17-year-olds during the pandemic

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Multi-tiered system of support
A research-based approach to addressing student need

Source: Advancing Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems: Guidance from the Field. 2019
Unprecedented Resources & Call to Action

$190B to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

- **$13.2B ESSER I** (September 2022*)
- **$54.3B ESSER II** (September 2023*)
- **$122B ESSER III** (September 2024*)

*deadline for obligating funds

www.nasbe.org
Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Investments
(mental health, behavioral health, school connectedness efforts are eligible uses)

- **$1B** Student Support and Academic Enrichment program
- **$500M** School Based Mental Health Service Grant Program
- **$500M** School Based Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Grant program
- **$240M** Project AWARE
- **$50M** 21st Century Community Learning Centers program
- **$40M** National Child Traumatic Stress Network
States braid many funding streams

Source: Education Commission of the States
Critical Action Steps

Examine Data on Student Need

Map Resources, Initiatives

Targeted, Research-Based Investments
NASBE's State Policy Database on School Health

Completely redesigned and updated:
Search, scan, navigate, and compare codified and noncodified policies on 200 school climate, health, and safety topics!

https://statepolicies.nasbe.org/
Leveraging Medicaid

• 2014 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rule change

• Healthy Students, Promising Futures Learning Collaborative (Members include Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia)

• Arkansas: Policy adopted to expand behavioral health

• Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina: Have expanded coverage to all Medicaid-enrolled students
School Medicaid Expansion Status

In 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services expanded the use of Medicaid to pay for school health services for all Medicaid-enrolled students. This map indicates the states that have taken the necessary steps, as of December 2021, to align their state Medicaid plan with federal policy, and the measures they took. It also identifies states in the process of doing so and those that haven’t started.

Click on each state to view its status.

Source:
https://healthystudentspromisingfutures.org/map-school-medicaid-programs/#0

www.nasbe.org
Meeting students where they’re at

- Universal telehealth (Mississippi)
- Building the school psychologist pipeline (Oklahoma)
- School-based health centers (Texas)
- Expanding access to rural communities (Louisiana)
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (All states)
- Helpline #s on Student IDs (Oklahoma, Arizona, Illinois)
Student connectedness and education

- **Mental health education** (Florida, New York, New Jersey, Virginia)
- **Excused mental health absences** (Kentucky)
- **Social-emotional learning standards** (20 states)
- **School climate surveys**

Many factors contribute to school climate & student connectedness including...

- Bullying prevention
- Discipline practices
- Enrichment programming
- Family and community engagement
- Mentoring
- Service learning, community service
- Teacher and principal preparation
As of 2019, 12 states require school climate surveys, 7 encourage them.

Source: https://statepolicies.nasbe.org/
As of 2019, 11 states require, and 12 states encourage staff professional development on parent and family engagement.

Source: https://statepolicies.nasbe.org/
16 States Require Teacher Training on Trauma

Source: https://nasbe.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/2022/06/Pierrottet_Trauma-Informed-Schools-final.pdf
Tools & Briefs: Non-governmental

• State Policy Database on School Health (policy research and comparison) at https://statepolicies.nasbe.org/

• State Mental Health Report Cards (data & policy recommendations) at https://hopefulfutures.us/

• Whole Child Policy Toolkit (research, resource library, state policy examples) at https://www.wholechildpolicy.org/

• Healthy Students, Promising Futures Learning Collaborative (partnership) at https://healthystudentspromisingfutures.org/
Tools & Briefs: Federal

- Department of Education (ED)
  - COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students’ Needs

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System data reports

- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
  - National Center for School Mental Health (see report on Advancing Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems: Guidance From the Field)

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
  - Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
THANK YOU for your time & public service!

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