

# Sustaining School-Based Mental Health Services

U.S. Department of Education Resources



This resource provides information on select **federal education funding sources and technical assistance** that can support schools in sustaining student mental health and well-being supports.

## FORMULA GRANTS

**Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may use the following formula grant funds to sustain activities and services that promote student health, mental health, and well-being.**

**Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program (SSAE)** funds can be used to implement practices such as multi-tier systems of support (MTSS) that support social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

**Title II, Part A** funds may be used to implement evidence-based professional development programming focused on creating safe and welcoming environments for students.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B** funds can be used to provide special education and related services and supplementary aids and services to a child with a disability, and program modifications or supports for school personnel, in accordance with the child's individualized education program (IEP). These activities can include professional development to deliver academic and behavioral interventions and providing educational and behavioral services and supports.

## DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

**Local Education Agencies can apply for funding from the following programs to support activities to promote student mental health and well-being.**

**Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grants** foster partnerships between LEAs and IHEs to expand and diversify school-based mental health services providers in high-need schools.

**School-Based Mental Health Services Grants** can expand the number of school-based mental health services providers in LEAs with demonstrated need.

**Project Prevent Grants** can support LEAs impacted by community violence to implement or expand violence prevention strategies.

**Full Service Community Schools** provide wraparound supports including before and afterschool and behavioral health on school grounds to support families.

For more information on how to apply for U.S. Department of Education grants, visit:  
<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html>





The National Center for School Mental Health, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), strengthens policies and programs in school mental health to improve learning and promote success for students. [www.schoolmentalhealth.org](http://www.schoolmentalhealth.org)

## MEDICAID FUNDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

Federal Medicaid funds can be used for the provision of school-based physical and behavioral health services to Medicaid-eligible students. **Nationally, more than half of all school-aged children and youth are covered by Medicaid.** Most States have Medicaid plans in place that allow for Medicaid to reimburse for health services provided to students with disabilities under IDEA. However, **only 16 States have plans that allow for the reimbursement of services to Medicaid-eligible students beyond just those who receive services under the IDEA.**

State education agencies (SEAs) can work with State Medicaid Agencies (SMAs) to develop a State plan that explicitly allows for reimbursement of services to all Medicaid-enrolled students. This could **enable thousands of additional students to gain access to crucial health services** and ensure that your State has access to all available funds to support them. For a step-by-step guide and State examples, please see: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/docs/medicaid-funding-for-school-based-services-03-08-2024.pdf>

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**Access free evidence-based resources and request support from the Department's technical assistance centers.**

The **National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** enhances State and district efforts to implement PBIS, which is a framework for delivering a continuum of academic, behavioral, social, and emotional support matched to student need, to improve outcomes for all students.

<https://pbis.org>

The **National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE)** offers technical assistance focused on improving school climate and conditions for learning, including through increased student engagement and promoting safe learning environments.

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov>

The **National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI)** supports implementation of a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework in early education programs and improve social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes for young children.

<https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/>

The **Mental Health Personnel Technical Assistance Center (METRICS)** provides technical assistance to grantees of the School-Based Mental Health and the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration grant programs and disseminates best practices in credentialing, recruiting, training, developing, and retaining school-based mental health services providers.

<https://www.metricscenter.org/>

## SELECT DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

**Supporting Child and Student Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Mental Health Needs** provides information and resources to enhance the promotion of mental health and social and emotional well-being among students.

<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/students/supporting-child-student-social-emotional-behavioral-mental-health.pdf>

For more information on U.S. Department of Education resources, visit: <https://oese.ed.gov/resources>

