



Expanded School Mental Health in West Virginia

www.schoolmentalhealthwv.org

FEBRUARY 2012

School Climate

Tool Kit #5

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SCHOOL-WIDE FOUNDATION OF LEARNING SUPPORTS:

“Programs and policies to assess and address school climate based upon evidence and promising practices”

West Virginia Expanded School Mental Health Steering Team, 2011

School climate refers to the quality and character of school life. A positive school climate¹:

- fosters youth development
- supports people feeling socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically safe
- means that students, families and educators work together, and educators model and nurture an attitude that emphasizes the benefits and satisfaction from learning

Poor school climate has been associated with many negative outcomes. Positive school climate can affect many positive outcomes including academics, attendance, suspension rates, vandalism, and bullying.

REFERENCE: ¹National School Climate Center: <http://www.schoolclimate.org/climate/>

Policy 2418—Alternative Education:

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/p2418.html>

Policy 4372—Student Rights and Responsibilities:

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/p4372.html>

Policy 4373—Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools (replaces the Student Code of Conduct):

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/>

- West Virginia received a **Safe and Supportive Schools (S3) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education** in October of 2010. This grant funds 22 high schools in 18 counties to develop a school climate measurement system and interventions. The expectation is that this system will be eventually implemented statewide. <http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools>
- **The West Virginia Model for Positive School Climate—Respect and Protect** is a positive school climate model developed by the WVDE Office of Healthy Schools and the Center for Professional Development. It is a comprehensive approach to school wide violence prevention. <http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/RespectandProtectNew.html>



West Virginia Resources

West Virginia Department of Education Resources and Policies:

Policy 2421—Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation requires counties to design and implement prevention and response programs, to outline investigatory and reporting procedures and to delineate penalties for violations of this policy. <http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/SDFSBUllypage.html>

DEFINITION: “Expanded school mental health” refers to programs that build on core services typically provided by schools. It is a framework that:

- ◆ includes the full continuum of prevention, early intervention and treatment
- ◆ serves all students
- ◆ emphasizes shared responsibility between schools, mental health providers and other community partners

General Resources

- **Assessment of School Climate:**
<http://casel.org/in-schools/assessment/school-climate/>
- **National School Climate Standards and Benchmarks:**
<http://www.schoolclimate.org/climate/documents/school-climate-standards-csee.pdf>
- **Twelve Dimensions of School Climate:**
http://www.schoolclimate.org/programs/documents/dimensions_chart_pagebars.pdf
- **The Case for Programs that Address School Climate:** http://www.units.muohio.edu/csbmhp/network/school_climate.pdf

The purpose of this series of information briefs is to provide a common framework and recommendations to assist schools and community mental health providers to more effectively develop a comprehensive approach to school mental health that is consistent with current West Virginia Department of Education policies.




These recommendations and resources have been reviewed and approved by West Virginia's Expanded School Mental Health Steering Team. For more information contact info@schoolmentalhealthwv.org

For more information visit
www.schoolmentalhealthwv.org

This information brief was prepared by the

WEST VIRGINIA
SCHOOL HEALTH
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

 Marshall University—Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health

Leadership for The West Virginia School Mental Health Initiative is a shared commitment of



Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities