

# WEST VIRGINIA'S EXPANDED SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

## Reducing Barriers to Learning

### VISION

Every student in WV will benefit from a school environment that supports social and emotional well-being to achieve his/her full potential.

### MISSION

To develop and strengthen policies, practices and services that promote learning and social- emotional well-being for all of WV's youth through a collaborative process that engages schools, families, and community based agencies.

### GOALS

1. Oversee and refine a state-level infrastructure that supports collaborative, integrated, interagency approaches to sustain Expanded School Mental Health.
2. Implement a strategic communication plan to demonstrate that mental health programs are necessary and integral to students' academic enrichment and success in school.
3. Define a collaborative ESMH model that addresses the context and meets the needs of WV's students and communities.
4. Develop WV standards and protocols to ensure quality and fidelity of the ESMH model.
5. Create an evaluation design and reporting process that informs funders and stakeholders about ESMH outcomes and progress in WV.
6. Provide technical assistance that will improve quality and capacity for ESMH in local communities.
7. Develop a plan to sustain existing and create new comprehensive school mental health models.

## STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Improved academic performance
- Increased graduation rate
- Improved school attendance
- Improved school functioning/behavior
- Improved social-emotional well-being
- Reduced barriers to learning

## VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

- Social well-being is critical to school success
- School mental health programs are a shared responsibility of health and mental health agencies, schools, parents and the community at large.
- SMH programs should be strengths- based, student and family-centered , developmentally and culturally sensitive
- Families, teachers, students and other important groups should be actively engaged in the program's development, oversight, evaluation, policy and continuous improvement.
- All students will have access to the full continuum of school mental health services and supports regardless of ability to pay
- Coordination and collaboration with other systems of care outside and within the school is essential
- Programs and services should focus on a positive school climate, reducing barriers to development and learning, and be based on evidence of positive impact.
- Quality assessment and improvement activities continually guide and provide feedback to the program.
- Staff hold to high ethical standards, are committed to children, adolescents, and families, and display an energetic, flexible, responsive, and proactive style in delivering services.

*The ESMH Initiative is a collaborative project of the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities. For more information: [info@wvshtac.org](mailto:info@wvshtac.org) .*

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