



# Expanded School Mental Health

in West Virginia

*...because a healthy student is a teachable student*

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## West Virginia advancements in policy, research & practice earn award from National Center for School Mental Health



On October 8, the national Center for School Mental Health honored West Virginia's efforts at its annual conference, "School Mental Health and Promoting Positive School Culture," in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Juanita Evans Memorial Award for Contributions in School Mental Health is given annually to an individual or group who has significantly impacted the advancement of school mental health policy, research, and/or practice. This year's recipient, representing

the West Virginia Expanded School Mental Health Initiative, was Linda Anderson, MPH, of the School Health Technical Assistance Center, Huntington, WV

In accepting the award from Mark Weist, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for the CSMH, Anderson said, "the real credit goes to our steering team in West Virginia and many of you who have helped us to make progress. The Center for School Mental Health and the National Assembly on School Based Health Care have provided invaluable technical assistance and support. It is a real privilege to work with so many dedicated people who willingly share their time and expertise," Anderson said.

The conference was attended by almost 700 participants representing all 50 states and several countries. The annual school mental health conference is sponsored by the Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland in partnership with the National IDEA Partnership.

## High schools in 17 counties targeted for Safe & Supportive Schools assistance

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded \$38.8 million in Safe and Supportive School (S3) grants to 11 states, including the West Virginia Department of Education, which received \$2,244,586 to target high schools for competitive S3 grants.

The goal of the grant is to measure school safety at the building level, and to help intervene in those schools with the greatest safety needs by creating safe and drug-free learning environments, to increase academic success for students in these high-risk schools.

Grant funds will be used to develop measurement systems to assess conditions for learning within individual schools, including school safety, and to make this information publicly available. Using this data, the grant recipients will work in collaboration with participating local educational agencies to improve the learning environment within schools facing the biggest challenges.

Participating counties and schools are:

- Barbour** - Phillip Barbour HS
- Boone** - Sherman HS
- Calhoun** - Calhoun Co. HS
- Fayette** - Midland Trail HS, Mount Hope HS, Oak Hill HS
- Grant** - Union Complex
- Harrison** - Lincoln HS
- Kanawha** - Herbert Hoover HS, Riverside HS, Sissonville H
- Lewis** - Lewis Co. HS
- Lincoln** - Lincoln Co. HS
- Logan** - Logan Senior HS
- McDowell** - Mount View HS and River View HS;
- Mercer** - Montcalm HS
- Roane** - Roane Co. HS
- Summers** - Summers Co. HS
- Tucker** - Tucker Co. HS
- Wayne** - Tolsia HS
- Webster** - Webster Co. HS
- Wetzel** - Valley HS

"It's important that we be able to measure school safety," USDE Secretary Arne Duncan said. "These grants will allow states to do that by surveying the real experts—students themselves."



## Continuing education program for school personnel introduced at Back-to-School Workshop

Lauren Kazeo, LMSW, Mental Health Consultant for the Michigan Department of Education, presented Eliminating Barriers for Learning to an audience of school based mental health professionals and educators, on August 16-17. The four-part training package was developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The training provides information about teenage social-emotional wellness and suggests specific skill-based techniques to promote a healthy learning environment. It aims to:

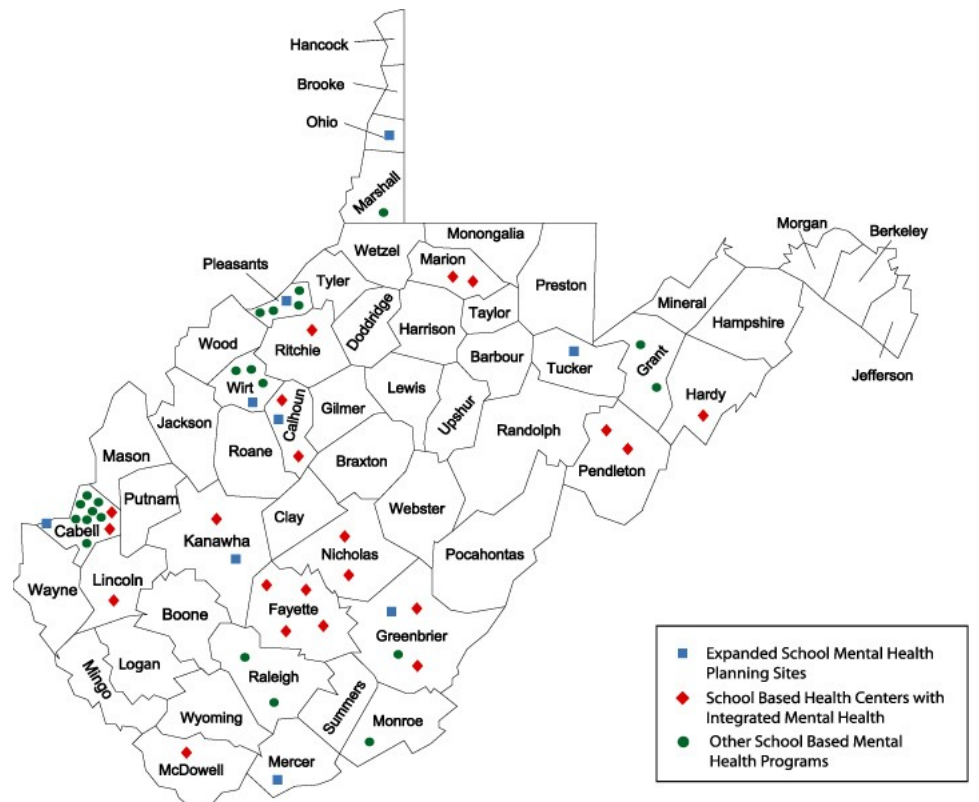
- Increase knowledge of adolescent mental health, including risks and protective factors;
- Show teachers and staff how to develop an action plan to help students who need additional support; and
- Promote academic achievement through instructional techniques that take into account individual differences.

Also featured in the mental health track were: Barri Faucett, Director of WV Adolescent Suicide Prevention & Early Intervention (ASPEN), presenting “Depression Screening, Suicide Prevention and Intervention for SBHC's and Schools.” The workshop was provided by the West Virginia School Health Technical Assistance Center at Marshall University, Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health.



### Grantees developing Expanded School Mental Health Pilot Projects

- Cabell Co. – Pretera Center
- Calhoun Co. – Minnie Hamilton Health Care Center
- Greenbrier Co. – Rainelle Medical Center
- Kanawha Co. – Pretera Center
- Mercer Co. – Southern Highlands, Inc.
- Ohio Co. – Northwood Health Systems
- Pleasants Co. – Westbrook Health Systems
- Tucker Co. – Youth Health Services, Inc.



### MISSION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA EXPANDED SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH STEERING TEAM:

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

For more information, go to [www.schoolmentalhealthwv.org](http://www.schoolmentalhealthwv.org)