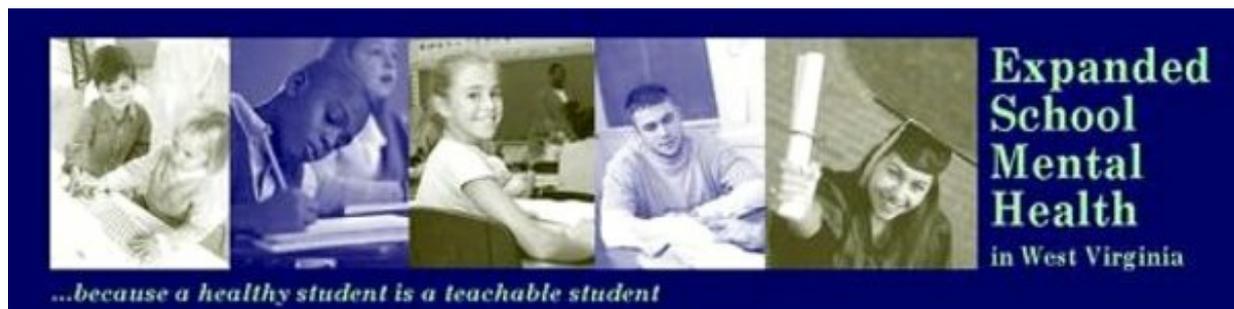


# Erasing Barriers to Learning

April 2012



Welcome to the third of a four-part monthly series, "Erasing Barriers to Learning" by the West Virginia Expanded School Mental Health Initiative—a partnership between the WV Department of Education, WV Department of Health & Human Resources, parents and professionals.



**Registration is now open for the 2012 KidStrong Conference, June 13-14 in Charleston, WV.**

Visit the Office of Healthy Schools web page for more information and to register:

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

The West Virginia Department of Education-Office of Healthy Schools, Marshall University School Health Technical Assistance Center, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and the West Virginia Immunization Network have combined various summer conferences and workshops that have previously been held separately into one statewide conference again. The conference will address the health and safety of students in three tracks: instruction, service delivery (school health including immunizations) and school climate.

Registration deadline is June 1, 2012.

## Video Clip of the Month

### West Virginia Educators Speak About Mental Health – Part 3

**Tips on planning, building and sustaining a school based mental health partnership in your community,**

This clip features representatives from WV Department of Education's Office of Healthy Schools and Office of School Improvement, as well as local school systems in West Virginia.

[View the 6-minute video...](#)

[Link to the five-clip video series](#)

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## West Virginia Foundation of Learning Supports - Featured Toolkits for April:

### [Toolkit # 5: School Climate](#)

A positive school climate can affect many positive outcomes such as academics, attendance, suspension rates, vandalism and bullying. [Find recommended tools to assess and improve your school's climate.](#)

### [Toolkit #6: Student Connectedness](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies six strategies that teachers, administrators, school staff, and parents can use to increase the extent to which students feel connected to school. [Read the full article.](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE ENTIRE 8-BRIEF SERIES - BUILDING A FOUNDATION OF LEARNING SUPPORTS](#)

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*“Expanded school mental health” refers to programs that build on core services typically provided by schools. Expanded School Mental Health is a framework that:*

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

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We look forward to hearing from you - if you have questions or comments, email us at [info@wvshtac.org](mailto:info@wvshtac.org).

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