

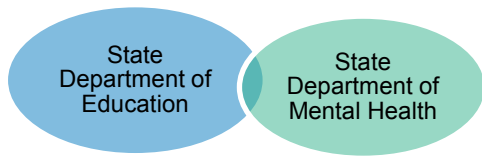


Element 3: Connecting Families, Schools, and Communities

BACKGROUND

Connecting Families, Schools, and Communities uses multifaceted strategies to link these groups together. The purpose of this element is to increase and improve the quality of engagement among families, schools, and communities related to planning and implementing programs and activities that assist students.

Family involvement in children’s education has a significant impact on children’s academic achievement, including better grades and test scores, better social skills, improved behavior, and graduation from high school. The positive involvement of community members in schools, as role models and mentors, provides an additional layer of support and inspiration for students and teachers.



MENTAL HEALTH/EDUCATION INTEGRATION IS A HALLMARK OF THE SS/HS MODEL

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS



YouthMOVE Ohio: Ohio youth leaders met with representatives of YouthMOVE Ohio (YMO) and YouthMOVE National and decided to join counties to develop a cross-systems network of youth leaders and provide long-term structure and support for youth inclusion and voice across the state. Youth who currently serve on the state YMO advisory board are also working with adult partners to develop their strategies for youth voice.

1,500 Families Involved in Michigan: Through the use of surveys, focus groups, and support groups to identify family needs and solicit input from families—as well as countless school staff and administrators involved in planning and implementing programs—over 1,500 families were involved in planning or implementation of activities that assist students.

Student-Led Initiatives in Wisconsin: High school students in Beloit created Project AIU (Accept, Include, and Understand Me) to empower students to voice their opinions and priorities for change and show others how to do the same. School and community members joined this youth-led project to create school and community environments that embrace these principles. Day-long retreats and social marketing strategies address topics such as student engagement, bullying, and violence prevention.

EXAMPLES OF EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES AND PROGRAMS

SS/HS grantees currently implement the following practices and programs as part of Element 3:

- ✓ Attendance Works
- ✓ Authentic Youth & Family Engagement
- ✓ CBITS (Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools)
- ✓ Check and Connect
- ✓ Check in Check out
- ✓ Developmental Relationships (SEARCH Institute)
- ✓ Family and Schools Together (F.A.S.T.)
- ✓ Kognito At-Risk for Educators Training
- ✓ Parent Peer Support
- ✓ Positive Action
- ✓ PBIS
- ✓ Project Northland
- ✓ Responsive Classrooms
- ✓ Restorative Practices
- ✓ Service Learning
- ✓ Strengthening Families Program
- ✓ Student Assistance Program Model
- ✓ Suspension Reduction and Parent Engagement Training
- ✓ Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ✓ Yale RULER Approach Training—Community Forum
- ✓ Youth Engagement

SS/HS grantees served approximately 200,000 students in the 2016–2017 school year.

Contact our SS/HS Grantees to learn what they are working on now:

[CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#)

Bridgeport Public Schools, Middletown Public Schools, and Consolidated School District of New Britain
[Connecticut Grantee Profile](#)

[MI Departments of Education and Health and Human Services](#)

Education Achievement Authority—Detroit, Houghton Lake Community Schools, and Saginaw Public School District
[Michigan Grantee Profile](#)

[NH Departments of Education and Health and Human Services](#)

Concord Public Schools, Laconia Public Schools, and Rochester Public Schools
[New Hampshire Grantee Profile](#)

[NV Department of Education and Public and Behavioral Health](#)

Lyon County School District, Nye County School District, and Washoe County School District
[Nevada Grantee Profile](#)

[OH Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Education](#)

Greene County Educational Service Center, Harrison Hills City School District, and Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center
[Ohio Grantee Profile](#)

[PA Department of Education, Systems of Care, and PBIS](#)

Intermediate Unit 21 (Lehigh Learning and Achievement School)/Lehigh County, Northeastern York School District/York County, and Penncrest School District/Crawford County
[Pennsylvania Grantee Profile](#)

[WI Departments of Public Instruction and Health Services](#)

School District of Beloit, Menominee Indian School District, and Racine Unified School District
[Wisconsin Grantee Profile](#)

Resources to Help Connect Families, Schools, and Communities:

[Healthy People in Healthy Communities](#): This community planning guide is designed to help you make your community a healthier place to live. This guide provides information about the steps involved in forming and running a healthy community coalition.

[Partnerships with Families and Communities](#): This resource describes how children's learning and development can be promoted by engaging, supporting, and being responsive to families and communities.

“Friendships grow at Family Centers. You have to look at all these kids and families together. There’s a community being built.”

—Laurie Hart, Early Childhood Coordinator, New Hampshire