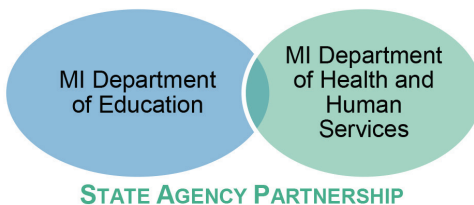




Michigan State and Community Partnerships Creating Safe and Healthy Schools

BACKGROUND

Michigan leads the way to advance sustainable learning supports for all of its students. Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) has enabled Michigan to work toward the development of a comprehensive, multitiered system of support, to develop a framework for collaboration and data-driven decision making at the state and local levels, and to implement best-practice models that contribute to successful educational and behavioral health outcomes for students and their families.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Family Engagement:** Michigan created a set of philosophical beliefs around family engagement, including integration across state agencies, and developed a Family Engagement Perception Instrument to measure attitudes that providers have toward family engagement.
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ):** Training and technical assistance is focusing on inclusive policies, programs, and strategies, so schools can provide safer and more supportive learning environments for LGBTQ students.
- **Michigan Theory of Change:** A Theory of Change was developed to guide the implementation of core processes and systems-integration strategies that will lead to improved behavioral health and academic outcomes for students.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** The Michigan Health and Education Partnership (MHEP) was created to facilitate bidirectional communication among state and local partners to support best practices, integration, and services that contribute to successful educational, physical, and behavioral health outcomes for all children and families.
- **Disproportionality Data Analysis and Planning Template:** This tool was developed to help education systems identify and address disparities in behavioral health access, utilization, and outcomes.
- **Mental Health Support Teams:** These teams are promoting cross-systems dialogue about the impact of mental health issues on students' learning and about access to sustainable services in schools and communities.
- **Multicultural Teacher Institutes:** These institutes highlight topics relevant to current challenges, such as supporting LGTBQ youth, poverty, and racism.
- **Referral Tracking:** Through cross-grant collaboration with Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education), a systematic referral tracking tool was developed to improve continuity of mental health referral processes and data collection within districts.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES AND PROGRAMS

Michigan currently implements the following practices and programs in Education Achievement Authority of Michigan, Houghton Lake Community Schools, and/or Saginaw Public Schools:

- ✓ Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Botvin Life Skills
- ✓ Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) Pyramid Model
- ✓ The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA)
- ✓ Lions Quest
- ✓ Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
- ✓ Prevention Plus Wellness Sport
- ✓ Prime for Life Prevention Program
- ✓ Project Toward No Drug Abuse
- ✓ Restorative Practices
- ✓ Strengthening Families Program
- ✓ Trauma- Informed Care Training
- ✓ Youth Mental Health First Aid

“SS/HS has led HLCS in identifying and continuing to increase the number of students being seen for mental health services, both in our schools and by our collaborative partners.”

— Shad Fish, SS/HS Project Manager, Houghton Lake, MI



Education Achievement Authority (EAA) of Michigan

- **Behavioral Supports:** PBIS and restorative practices were implemented in five schools. Lion's Quest, a social and emotional learning and prevention program, was expanded from two elementary/middle schools to three high schools and one community mental health agency.
- **Training:** More than 350 staff members have been trained in culturally responsive teaching, restorative practices, social emotional learning, and PBIS, which has helped to improved school climate and culture.
- **Mental Health Services:** Sustainable collaborations with community partners have strengthened the infrastructure to improve students' access to services, to track referrals, and to streamline data collection and sharing. Mental health staff members from 70 schools and community partners collaborated during monthly cross-systems team meetings for community building and developing the infrastructure and clarifying roles to effectively work with students and families.

Houghton Lake Community Schools

- **Behavioral Supports:** PBIS and restorative practices have been implemented at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and was the primary force that reduced disciplinary referrals.
- **Mental Health Services:** By providing a school-based mental health specialist, students have greater access to mental health services.
- **Training:** More than 15 staff members have been trained as trainers and more than 175 have been trained in restorative practices, nonviolent crisis intervention, Safe Talk Suicide Prevention and Awareness, trauma-informed care, Youth Mental Health First Aid, PBIS, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), and/or Darkness to Light.

Saginaw Public Schools

- **Family/Community Engagement:** The district adopted the Epstein Model for Family Involvement Framework. School teams have developed plans to increase family engagement. The newly created Parent/Family and Community Engagement Empowerment Center hosts all parent/family and community trainings (e.g., restorative practices, lunch & learns, and Strengthening Families).
- **Behavioral Health Supports:** The local systems of care has provided a full-time mental health therapist in each elementary and middle school. PBIS has been implemented in four elementary schools. More than 550 staff, family members, and community partners have been trained in restorative practices, cultural competency, and trauma-informed care. These trainings were in collaboration with Title 1 and system of care. Consultants also provide role modeling and coaching.
- **Collaboration:** The Saginaw Intermediate School District is collaborating with SS/HS to support the development of a data warehouse to integrate student data.

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD

SS/HS has created sustainable collaborations and strengthened the infrastructure to facilitate student access to mental health services, to track referrals, and to streamline data collection and sharing. The work of SS/HS will continue to evolve as a catalyst for change at the local and state levels, with a focus on generating community-driven reform, providing staff training, expanding existing programs, and empowering partners to implement evidence-based programs.

29% decrease in high school students who were electronically bullied and in office disciplinary referrals.

— in EAA of Michigan

39% decrease in office disciplinary referrals.

— in Houghton Lake

17% decrease in the percentage of students who reported being in a physical fight on school property.

— in Saginaw

"The Restorative Justice training helped me see what was going on in the schools and helped my family resolve problems without violence."

— Parent in Saginaw

We are committed to sustaining and/or expanding the following programs and services:

- ✓ Family/community engagement
- ✓ Mental health services
- ✓ Behavioral health supports
- ✓ Professional development