

Innovation That Works



CHILDREN DESERVE TO THRIVE: THE SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS DIFFERENCE

All children and youth are worthy of the opportunity to thrive in school and life. However, there are a number of factors that can negatively impact their well-being and success at any age, in and out of the classroom—from trauma to substance abuse to mental health. For decades, schools and communities have implemented patchwork solutions that may meet different demands but are unable to address these challenges collectively.

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) approach is different. Its innovative Framework provides a roadmap to comprehensively address behavioral and mental health, youth violence prevention, substance use, and school safety. Comprehensive as well as flexible, the SS/HS Framework guides states, communities, schools, and their partners to choose the solutions that are right for them.

NATIONAL IMPACT | 2014–16

In 21 innovative and diverse communities across seven states, it is clear that that SS/HS works:



MORE THAN

34,000

STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



60,000

INDIVIDUALS WERE TRAINED IN MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION*



18%

FEWER STUDENTS REPORTED CONSUMING ALCOHOL ON ONE OR MORE DAYS IN THE PAST MONTH



200,000

STUDENTS WERE SERVED BY SS/HS PROGRAMMING*

**approximately*

THE SS/HS FRAMEWORK

Built upon the latest research on youth violence prevention and behavioral health, the SS/HS Framework tool provides a structure that can help any state, school, or community replicate the success of SS/HS.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Collaboration & Partnership
- Technology
- Policy Change & Development
- Capacity Building
- Systemic Change & Integration

ELEMENTS

- Promoting Early Childhood Social & Emotional Learning & Development
- Promoting Mental, Emotional & Behavioral Health
- Connecting Families, Schools & Communities
- Preventing Behavioral Health Problems
- Creating Safe & Violence-Free Schools



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Cultural & Linguistic Competency
- Serving Vulnerable & At-Risk Populations
- Developmentally Appropriate
- Resource Leveraging
- Sustainability
- Youth-Guided & Family-Driven
- Evidence-Based Interventions

SUCCESS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS

A strength of the SS/HS approach is understanding that “one size does *not* fit all.” Using the Framework tool, the initiative’s states, communities, and school districts have applied strategies, evidence-based programs, and best practices to address their unique needs:

CONNECTICUT



50%

decrease in overall number of suspensions and expulsions in the New Britain Schools.



14%

decrease in chronic absenteeism statewide.

MICHIGAN



39%

decrease in office disciplinary referrals in Houghton Lake.



1,500

families statewide have engaged in planning and/or implementing programs and activities that assist students.

NEVADA

39%



decrease in number of students who reported staying home from school due to feeling unsafe at school in Washoe County.



1,127

young children received developmental screenings from 2015–2017 in Nye and Lyon Counties by community organizations who did not previously offer screenings.

PENNSYLVANIA



16,000+

educators, youth/family, and community service providers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid by the state’s 375 certified trainers.

NEW HAMPSHIRE



64%

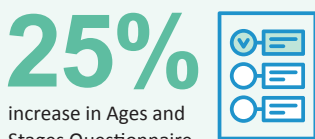
of Concord’s teachers reported having more instructional time after adopting mindfulness into the school day.

OHIO



67%

decrease in disruptive behaviors in kindergarteners at SS/HS schools implementing the PAX Good Behavior Game.



25%

increase in Ages and Stages Questionnaire screenings statewide.

WISCONSIN

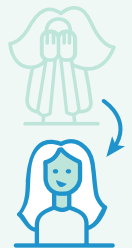
16%

decrease in the number of LGBTQ students who reported being bullied at SS/HS schools.



51%

reduction in reported risk associated with depression and suicide at SS/HS schools.



READY TO INNOVATE?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SS/HS, VISIT
www.healthysafechildren.org

LEARN ABOUT AND EXPLORE THE FRAMEWORK AT
www.healthysafechildren.org/sshs-framework