



Welcome to the School-Based Behavioral Health Summit

December 14, 2023



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Boston Children's Hospital
Office of Community Health



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Parent/Professional
Advocacy League





Today's Agenda

8:30 | Registration

9:00 | Welcome & opening remarks

9:15 | Working across systems to meet the needs of MA school communities

10:00 | Next steps for implementing CSBH for schools in MA

10:30 | Break and transition to morning breakouts

10:40 -11:45 | Morning breakout sessions

11:45-1:00 | Lunch & plenary session

1:10-2:15 | Afternoon breakout sessions

2:25-3:00 | Closing remarks & call to action



Working across systems
to meet the needs of
Massachusetts school
communities:

*A conversation with Secretary of
Education Patrick Tutwiler and
Secretary of Health & Human
Services Kate Walsh*





School Based Behavioral Health

Sara Whitcomb, PhD

Licensed Psychologist, Full Professor at UMass Amherst, Co-Director of the BIRCh Project

Sheila Dennery, PhD, LICSW

Director, Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships



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Welcome & Current Landscape



Boston
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Overview of BIRCh



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Tweet



Secretary Miguel Cardona 

@SecCardona 

In the past, student access to structured mental health services in schools hasn't been implemented in a functional way. It's been ancillary & after the fact. We have the opportunity now to redesign schools & make sure that mental health services are a core part of school's DNA.

12:11 PM · Mar 27, 2021 · Twitter Web App



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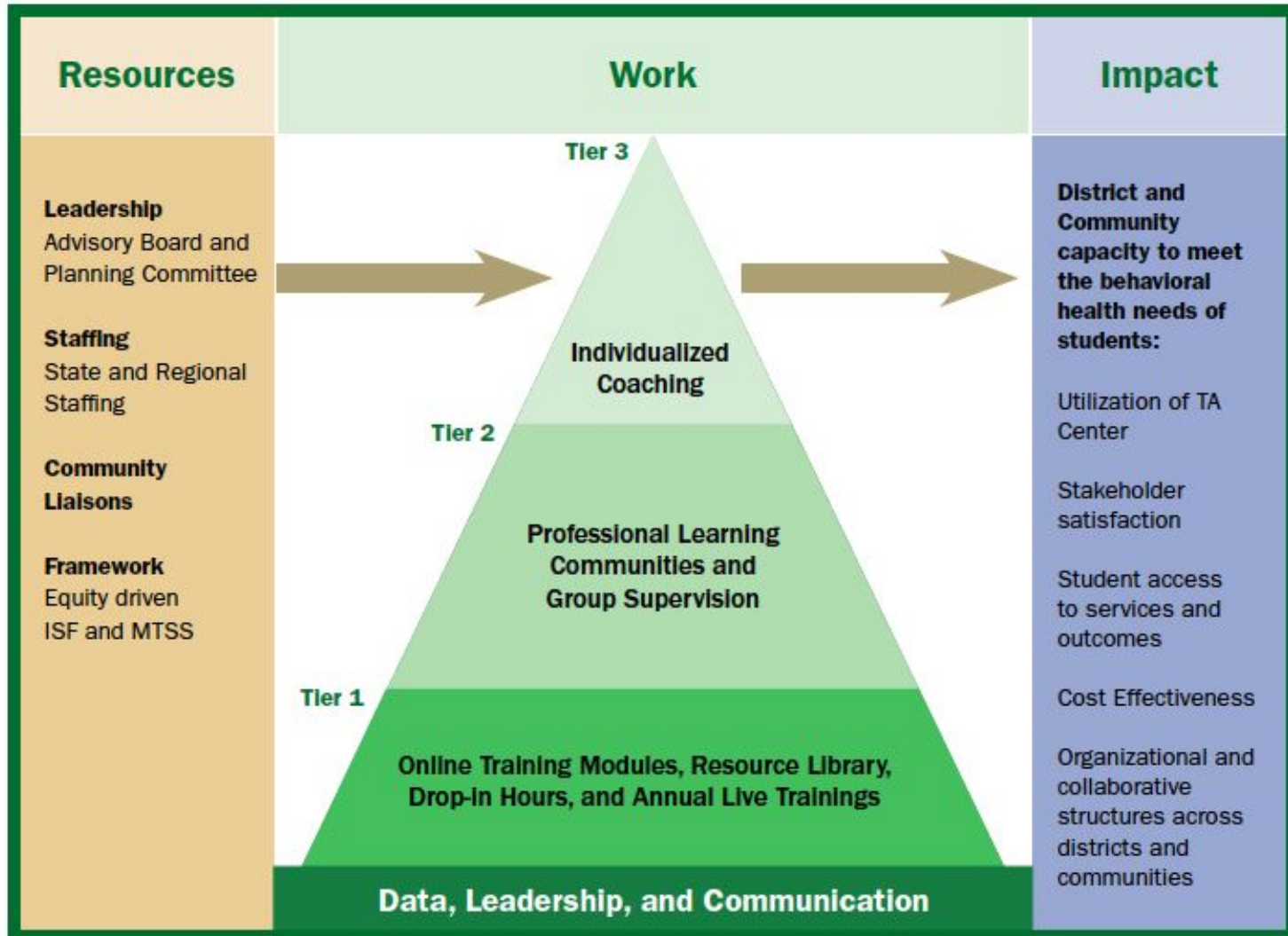


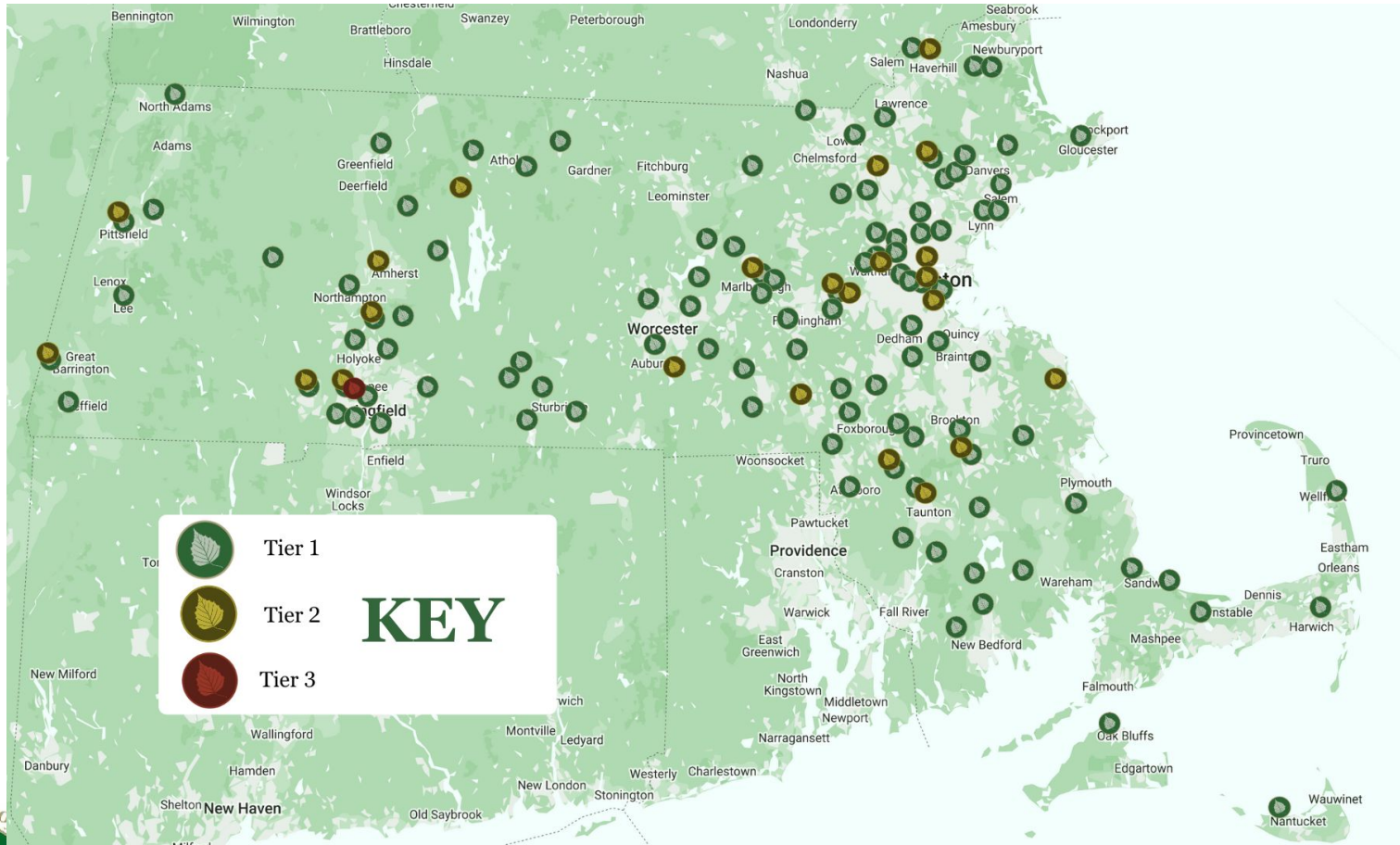
BIRCh Project Mission

The mission of the BIRCh Project is to provide **professional development** and **resources** for schools and strengthen the **coordination** of behavioral health supports provided by school and community agencies.

More information is available at www.umb.edu/birch, or contact us at [Birch.project@umb.edu](mailto: Birch.project@umb.edu).





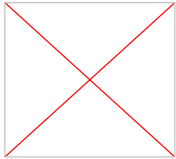




Contact us

www.umb.edu/birch

Subscribe to our
mailing list [here](#)



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Kathryn Doherty Kurtz, PhD, NCSP
Project Director, BIRCh Project
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What is School Based Behavioral Health? Developing a Common Language

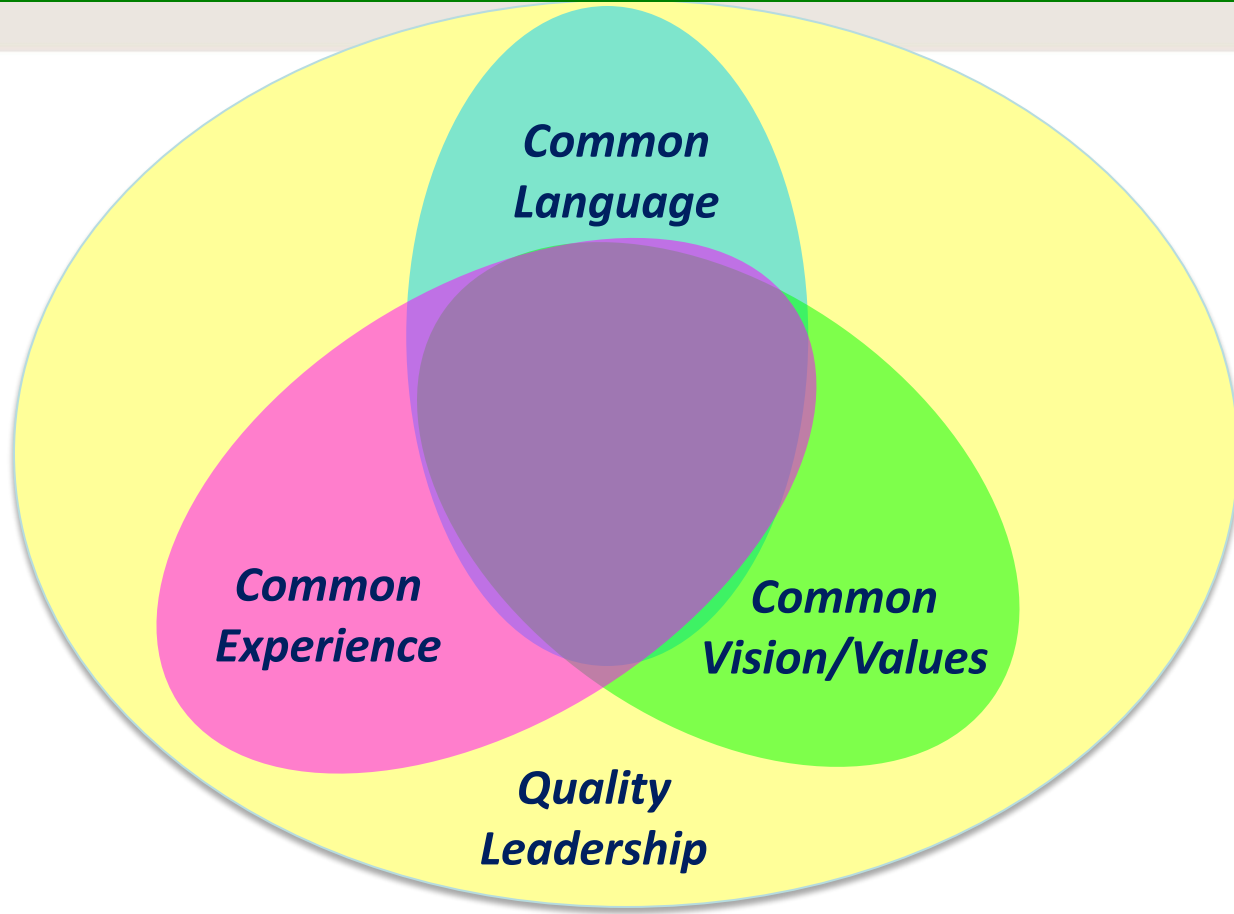


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Internal Alignment





Workforce Capacity and Disparities in Services in Massachusetts Schools



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Massachusetts

As of July, 2019, the general population was 6,892,503.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, every day

- 951,631 students in our public schools
- 134,259 full-time teachers and staff (89% white)
- 1,085,890 in total in our schools every day

1 out of every 6 people (16%)
in Massachusetts enter a public school on any given weekday



Massachusetts

Behavioral health concerns impact roughly **15-20%** of
population,
so if **951,631 students** in public schools,

142,744 – 190,326 children

The pandemic created a sense of urgency for meeting the
behavioral health needs of our children in their naturalistic
settings, though there are the vast inequities and injustices in
access to these resources



Schools as center of this work

Children are **three times** more likely to access services if provided in **school (98%)** compared to **clinic (37%)**, and **six times** more likely to complete treatments (Jaycox et al., 2010).

Vision: Transform efforts with children's behavioral health

Schools as center of this work in partnership with families and communities



951,631 students in 406 School Districts (LEA)

SBBH staff increased from 5,427 in 2018

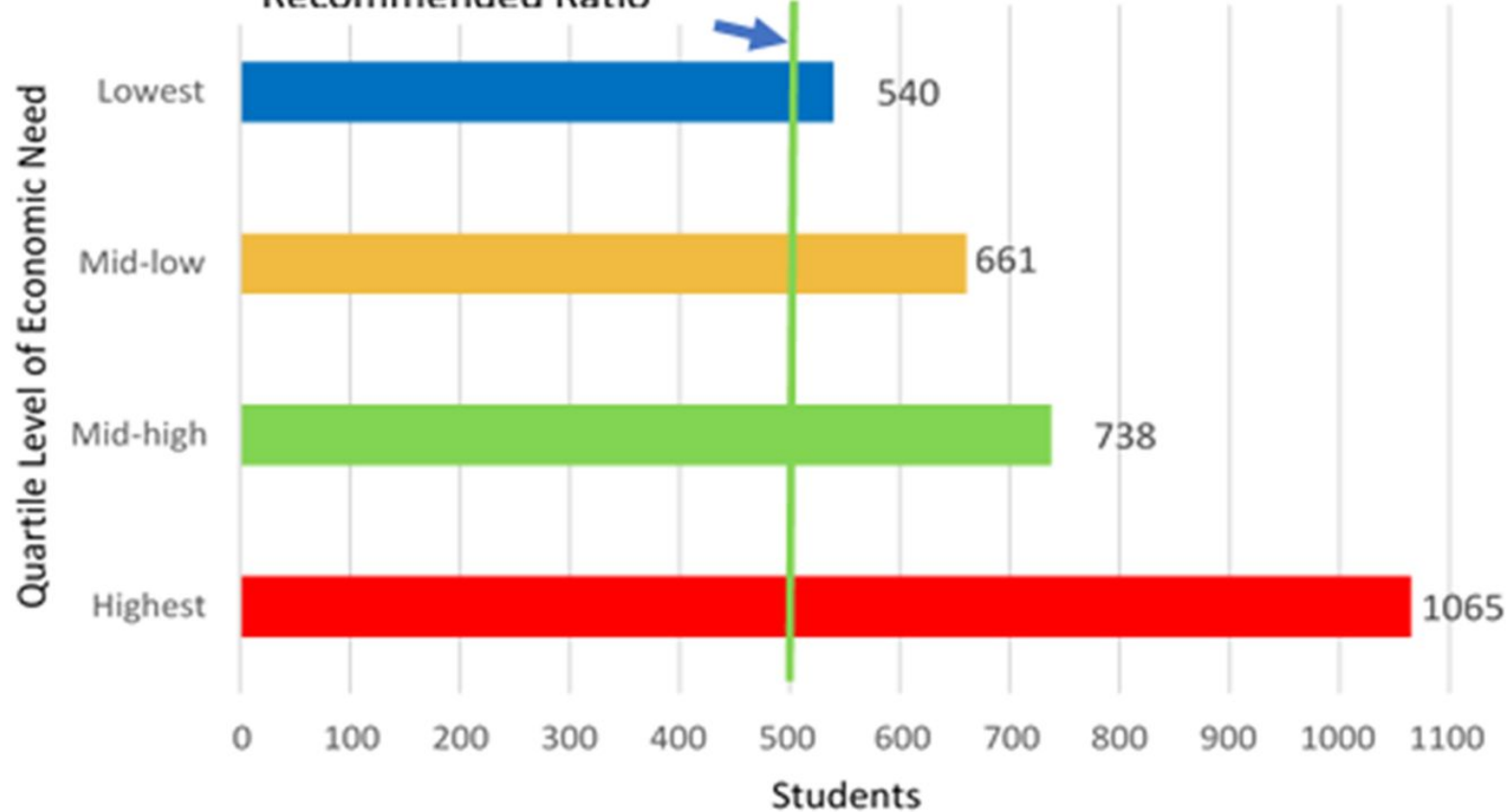
to 6,352 in 2021

17% increase

Professional Support Personnel License	Student: Staff ratio 2018-2019	Student: Staff ratio 2021-2022	National Recommended Ratios
School Social Worker/ School Adjustment Counselor	1:536	1:360	1:250
School Counselor	1:404	1:369	1:250
School Psychologist	1:734	1:676	1:500

Number of Students to School Psychologist

Recommended Ratio





Looking Ahead & Call to Action



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Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships

bostonchildrens.org/bchnp

617.919.3201



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Breakout sessions - begin at 10:40

Session 1: Increase & retain a diverse, well-trained and supported workforce

Location: Maria Hall (separate building - see signage)

Session 2: Ensure access to equitable & sustainable funding to support a full continuum of care

Location: Lower Student Union (main event space)

Session 3: Formalize & strengthen school & community partnerships

Location: Upper Student Union (1 floor up from main event space)



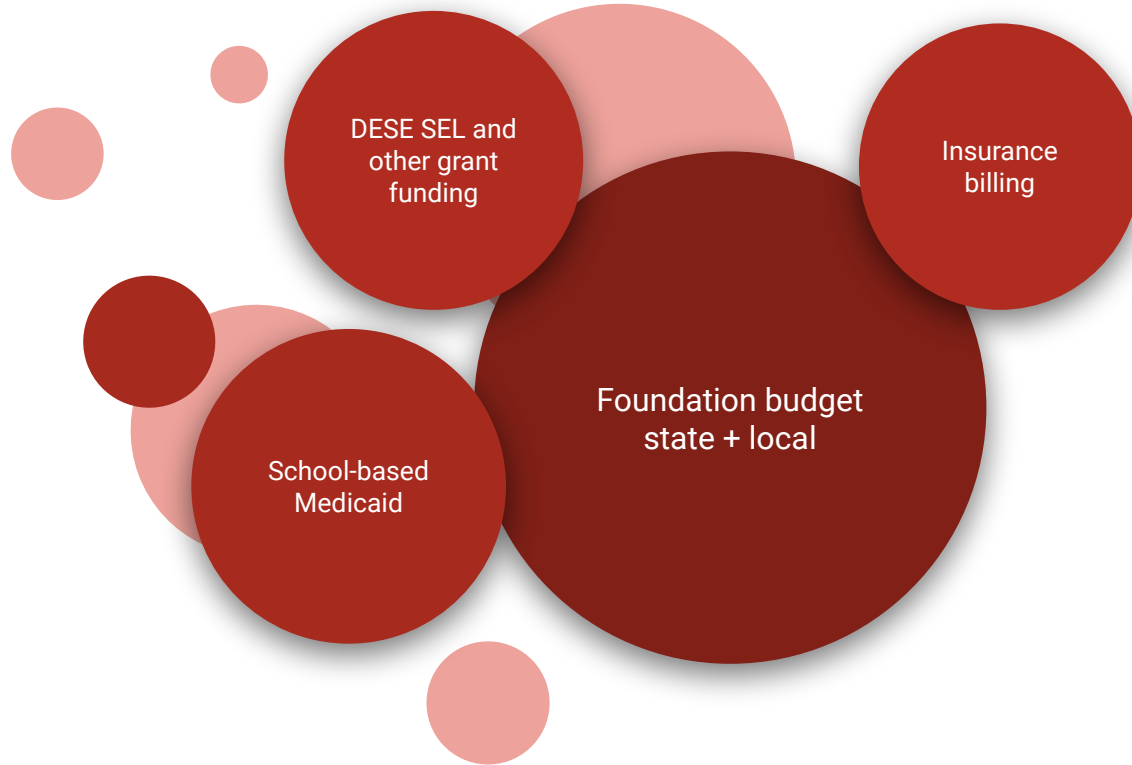
BREAKOUT SESSION

Ensuring access to equitable & sustainable **funding** to support a full continuum of care

Moderator: Kelly English, PhD., LICSW, Chief Innovation Officer, MSPCC



Current state of school behavioral health financing - it's complicated





Session presenters

Margot Tracy, MPH, Manager, School Based Medicaid and Cross Agency Initiatives, MassHealth

Chris Pond, M.S.ED., Behavioral & Mental Health Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

Mike Welch, former Superintendent Dedham Public Schools



Ensure access to equitable & sustainable funding to support a full continuum of care

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Margot Tracy, MPH, Manager, School Based Medicaid and Cross Agency Initiatives, MassHealth

Why does the School Based Medicaid Program (SBMP) matter to schools?



School-based health staff provide physical and behavioral health services to students enrolled in Medicaid and engage in Medicaid administrative activities that support the Medicaid program and provision of direct services.



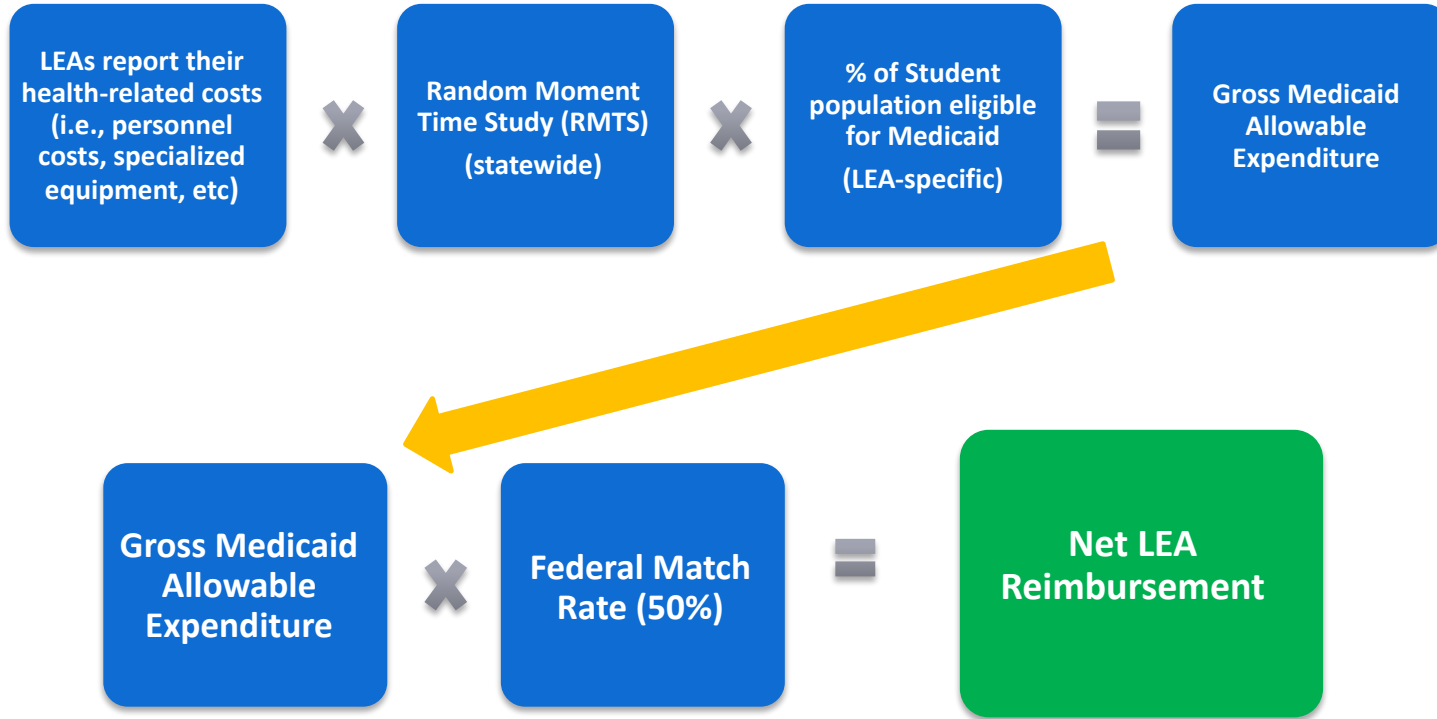
In other words, much of staff time is spent on activities eligible for Medicaid reimbursement....

that can support health staffing, programming and infrastructure...

which benefit all students, regardless of their Medicaid status.



How does SBMP work?



SBMP is **NOT** School Based Health Centers

LEA = Cities, towns, regional school districts, vocational-technical schools & charter schools

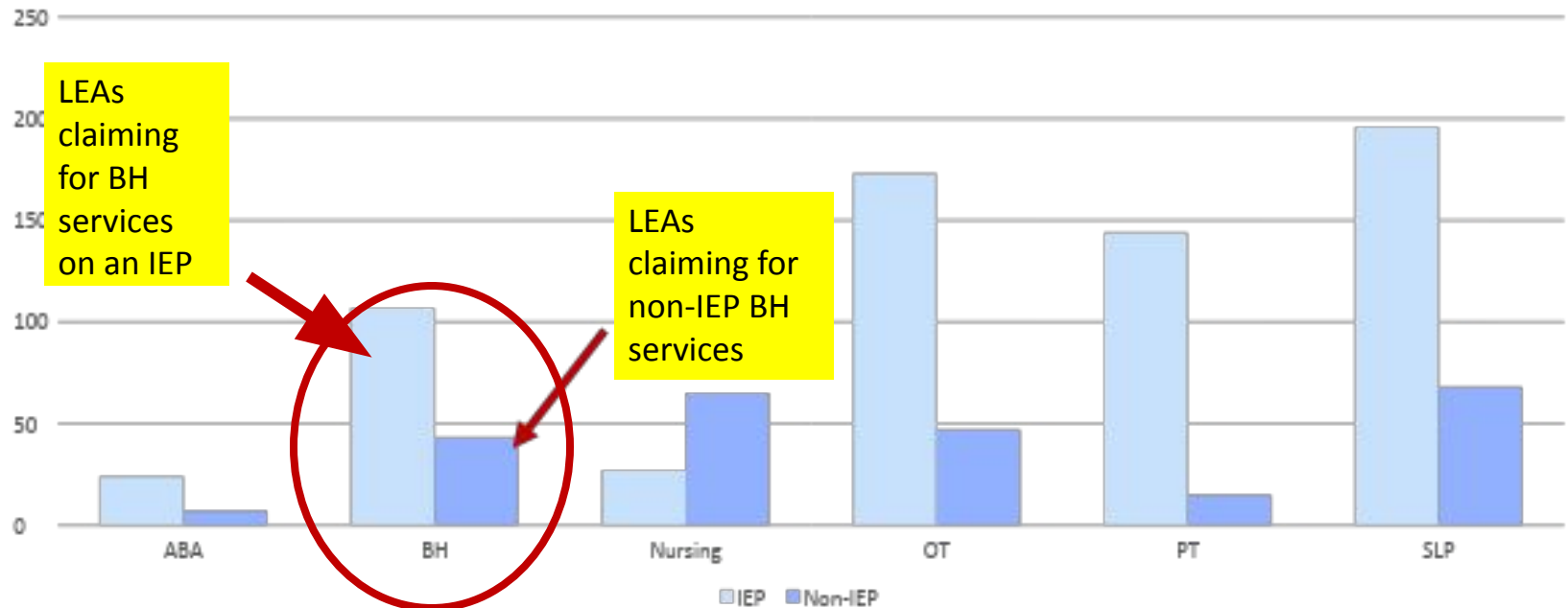
318 out of 398 LEAs enrolled in SBMP

- 252 participate in Direct Service Claiming & Admin. Activity Claiming
- 64 in AAC only
- 2 in DSC only

Go to [SBMP 101 Training Series](#) for more information

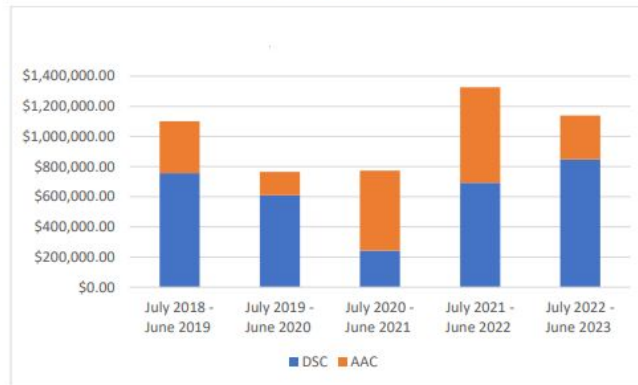
BH and Nursing services have most potential for growth-LEAs have been slow to take advantage in BH.

FY23 Count of LEAs Participating by Service Type: IEP & Non-IEP



LEAs have room to grow.

LEA 5 Year Payment History



The above chart presents a five year look back into your district's total reimbursement from Direct Service Claiming (DSC) and Administrative Activity Claiming (AAC) as payments made between each date range.

FY22 Snapshot for

Public Schools*

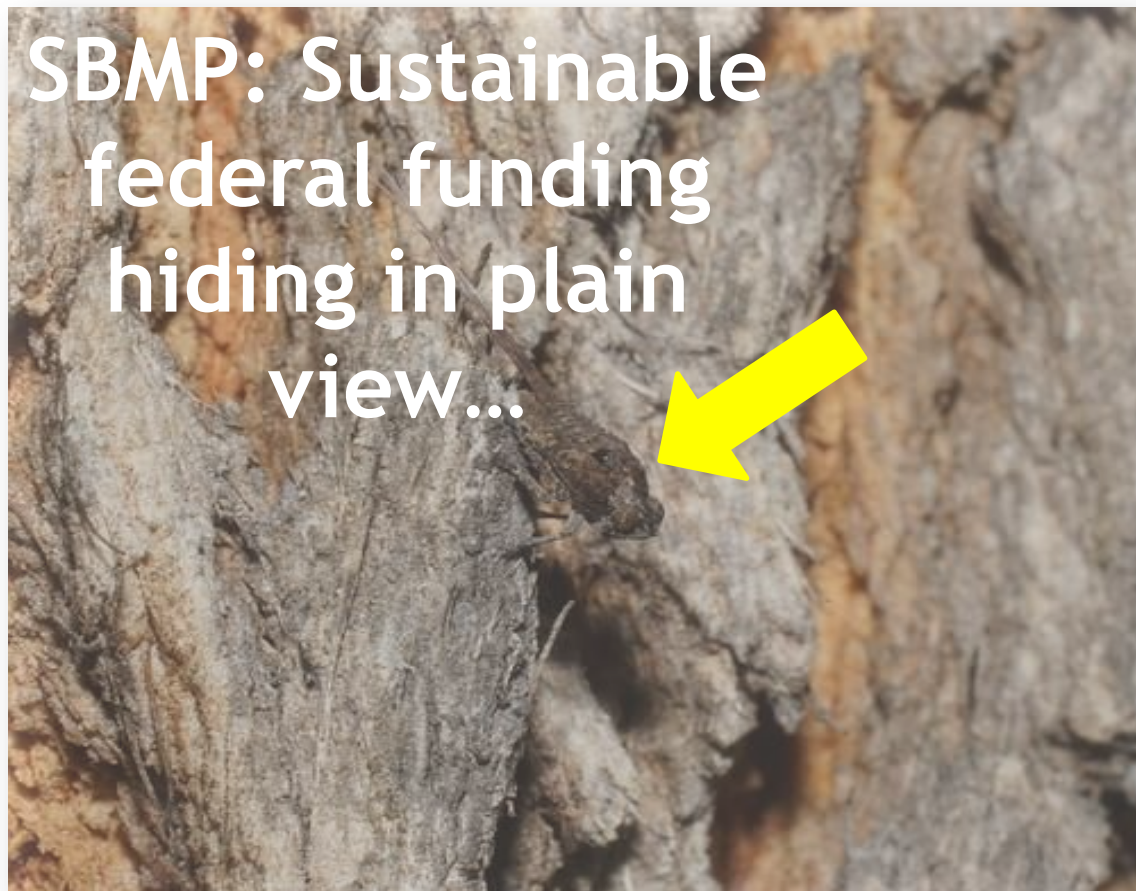
Covered Services	RMTS Participants	Claiming IEP?	Claiming Non-IEP?
ABA Therapy		No	No
Audiology		No	No
Behavioral Health	13	YES	No
Nursing	5	YES	No
Occupational Therapy	10	YES	No
Personal Care		No	No
Physical Therapy	3	YES	No
Speech Therapy	30	YES	No
Admin Only	20		
Claiming OOD?	No		

Direct Service Statewide Time Study %	IEP	
	IEP	Non-IEP
Pool 1: Mental/Behavioral Health Services	11.64%	1.67%
Pool 2: Therapy Services	45.76%	1.60%
Pool 3: Medical Services	5.54%	38.01%

	Total Students	Total Medicaid	MER
Medicaid Eligibility	15189	10501	69.14%

ESSER is
going away
in 2024.

Medicaid will
still be here.



SBMP Challenges

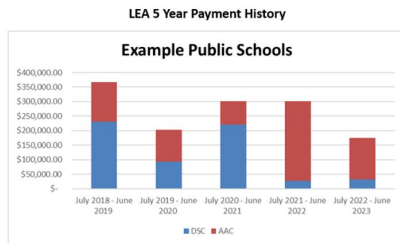
1 LEA Medicaid reimbursement is **unrestricted revenue for the local governmental entity**

2 Medicaid concepts don't easily translate into school settings □ Knowledge/training gaps

3 School health staff perceive Medicaid requirements as burdensome

Motivating School Leadership

Individual SBMP District Pr



District Health Needs and Infrastructure Assessment

District Health Needs and Infrastructure Assessment

Use this tool to assess your current infrastructures (i.e., staffing, policies, tech, etc.) to support school health services and your district's reimbursement through the [MassHealth School Based Medicaid Program: Medicaid SBMP](#). Alignment between these can facilitate increased access to Medicaid funding, which in turn can help your district build capacity to meet student health needs. Adapt this tool to fit your district.

- ✓ Start with your district's greatest health needs
- ✓ Take stock of your school health infrastructure
- ✓ Take stock of your infrastructure to support Medicaid reimbursement
- ✓ How could Medicaid funding help you address your students' needs?



What are the greatest health needs in your district?

Wordcloud Poll | 17 responses | 11 participants

Capturing all eligible services

Family elder care

Mental Health

Mental health support

Substance / vaping

Anxiety

SEL

What are your greatest health needs in your dis...

Depression

22744292



SBMP Resources

SBMP Website

All SBMP information, including program guidance, covered services & qualified providers, and announcements are posted on the program website.

SBMP 101 Training Modules

In addition to viewing recorded trainings, you can download transcripts and copies of the presentations. Module **1** provides a general overview for all audiences. Module **2** is designed for LEA leadership. Modules **8, 9 & 10** are most relevant to school health providers.

Top 5 Things Providers Should Know

A brief resource of the most pertinent program information for your school health staff.

Random Moment Time Study Training and Resources

- [Required training for RMTS Coordinators](#)
- [RMTS Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Training for RMTS participants](#)

Need help? Email: SchoolBasedClaiming@umassmed.edu
or call (800) 535-6741, M–F, 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

Other Resources

[Students could get millions more in Medicaid healthcare dollars. Why aren't they?](#)
(National Public Radio, August 2023)

National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME)

Membership in this organization is comprised of nation's school districts and state Medicaid and Education agencies who are involved in administration of Medicaid claiming for school-based services.

American Association for School Administrators (AASA)

AASA has several Medicaid resources for school administrators.

Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC)

Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC), a national nonprofit organization, works to ensure that schools can provide students with healthy environments, nutritious food, health services and opportunities for physical activity

Healthy Students, Promising Futures (HSPF)

Healthy Students, Promising Futures supports states and school districts in leveraging Medicaid funding to meet the health needs of students. This initiative is led by [Healthy Schools Campaign](#) (HSC).

[MassHealth Redeterminations webpage](#)

MassHealth is in the middle of redetermining eligibility. Visit this site to learn how you can help your students and their families maintain their enrollment.

Remember: your student body's Medicaid enrollment has an impact on your district's low-income enrollment for Chap 70 aid.

[Joint FERPA-HIPAA Guidance from the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services](#)

School Based Behavioral Health Financing Legislation

An Act relative to MassHealth
 Reimbursement for Schools | [S794](#) *Sen. Moran*

Funds received from school-based Medicaid claiming to be maintained by LEAs to fund school-based health services and related administrative activities

A Resolve Relative to the
 Reimbursement for School-Based Care
 | [H1194](#) *Rep. Garlick*

An Act relative to MassHealth reimbursement for schools S.794 (Senator Moran)	
What problem does this bill address?	<p>School-based Medicaid is a reimbursement program for providing certain Medicaid-covered health services and related administrative activities in schools to children enrolled in MassHealth. However, school Medicaid reimbursements often are not directed back into the schools, but rather are diverted to municipalities to be utilized at their discretion.</p> <p>As of March 2023, over 760,000 children in Massachusetts were enrolled in Medicaid and, while school is an ideal place to meet many of the health needs of children and adolescents, there is a lack of incentive among school-based providers to bill school Medicaid due to the current reimbursement structure and the administrative burden.</p>
What difference will this bill make?	<p>This bill would require municipalities to direct school Medicaid reimbursement dollars back to schools for health services and related administrative activities. Ensuring schools receive the full benefit of school Medicaid reimbursement would increase participation in the program, maximize federal funds, and expanding access to health services - including behavioral health - for all students.</p>
Why is this bill needed now?	<p>A large majority of youth who receive mental health care do so in a school setting, and schools are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of students seeking services for behavioral health-related challenges. An April 2022 report by the National Center for Education Statistics found that nearly 70% of public schools nationally saw an increase in the percentage of students seeking mental health services, yet very few schools felt they had the resources or capacity to support the behavioral health needs of students. While the majority of Massachusetts school districts are enrolled in the School Medicaid program, most districts participate in limited ways, often citing that the administrative burden is not worthwhile because the resources don't go back to support the school.</p> <p>Despite this limited participation, in FY22, the Commonwealth received approximately \$86M for school Medicaid reimbursement. Properly directing these school Medicaid reimbursement dollars has the potential to be an impactful funding source for school districts. Currently, schools receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding as a result of the pandemic, but those resources are set to expire next year, leaving schools with less funding and resources for health and behavioral health supports. The phasing out of these funds, along with both new and forthcoming state and federal policies intended to reduce administrative burden and make it easier for school districts to participate in school Medicaid makes now an ideal time to restructure school Medicaid reimbursement.</p>

Ensure access to
equitable & sustainable
funding to support a full
continuum of care

December 14, 2023



DESE's Educational Vision

EdVision & Catalog of Aligned Supports

What principles guide our work?

- All students in Massachusetts, *particularly students from historically underserved groups and communities*
- Culturally and linguistically sustaining classroom and school practices
- High expectations with targeted support

What does that look like for students?

All
students

- Are known and valued

Learning
experience

- Are relevant, real-world and interactive

Individualize
d supports

- Enable students to excel at grade level and beyond

Office of Student and Family Support

- ASOST
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Early Learning
- Educational Stability
- Emergency Management
- Mental Health and Behavioral Health
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)
- Safe and Supportive Schools
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Student Attendance
- Student Discipline
- Trauma Sensitive
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

[Student and Family Support \(SFS\) - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

Grant Funding to Support Mental Health & Safe and Supportive Environments

DESE Grant Funding

- *Safe and Supportive Schools*
 - *Creating and implementation action plans that strengthen equitable, culturally responsive and sustaining, safe, positive, healthy and inclusive whole-school learning environments and making effective use of a system for integrating services and aligning initiatives that promote students' behavioral health, including social and emotional learning and more.*

DESE Grant Funding for Supporting SEL/MH

Example includes:

- *Supporting Students' SEL, Behavioral & Mental Health (MH), and Wellness through MTSS (SEL & MH Grant)*
 - developing comprehensive, integrated multi-tiered systems for student, family, and educator social-emotional and/or mental health supports; and
 - building sustainable infrastructure to facilitate integrated coordination between school and community-based services and/or providers.
- *FY24 continuation SEL Mental Health Grant awardees-*
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2022/awards/613-311-332.docx>
- *FY24 continuation SEL Mental Health Grant awardees-*
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/awards/311.docx>

School districts receiving SEL/MH grant and range of grant funding.

- *111 school districts including educational collaboratives and charters*
- *Range of funding-\$25,000-\$133,000*

District promising practices

Examples include:

- *Supporting restorative justice practices*
- *Building connections with community partners and mental health agencies*
- *Building Multi-tiered Systems of Supports, SEL & Wellness practices*
- *Understanding data to address and develop policies and practices to support behavioral & mental health and social-emotional & wellness needs in district and schools.*
- *Attending professional development opportunities to build skills and knowledge to better support students.*
- *Funding training to support learning around trauma-informed and trauma sensitive practices.*

Promising practices cont.-

Examples include:

- *Supporting Youth Mental Health First Aid*
- *Hiring dedicated health/wellness staff to support students and staff to find healthy and productive ways to express their needs,*
- *Integrating CASEL competencies into the academic learning and life of the school.*
- *Understanding school culture and climate and how to increase a sense of belongingness for ALL educators, students, and families/caregivers.*

Guidance/Information/Professional Development

Examples include:

- [Holistic Supports & Enrichment Newsletter](#)
- [Mental & Behavioral Health and Wellness Supports Page](#)
- [Multi-Tiered System of Support \(MTSS\)](#)
- [Multi-Tiered Systems of Support \(MTSS\) Academies](#)
- E.g., SEL/Mental Health, Systemic Student Support (S3), and Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Youth Mental Health First Aid training

спасибо
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dank je
gracias
tapadh leat
hvala
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bedankt
obrigado
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dakujem
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Putting it all together: Braiding funding to support SBBH
at the school district level

Michael Welch, Ed.M., former Superintendent Dedham Public Schools

Mental Health Supports in K-12 Schools





Financing recommendations

- Establish a formula grant program
- Establish multi-year grants for community organizations
- Continue to provide technical assistance to schools to support participation in the school-based Medicaid program
- Assist community partners to utilize allowable Medicaid reimbursements for school based services
- Establish a collaborative effort between MassHealth and the Division of Insurance to address administrative barriers to increased commercial insurance reimbursement

Next Steps for Implementing Comprehensive School-Based Behavioral Health for Schools in Massachusetts

children's mental health campaign





Advocacy for Formula Grants - anticipated FY'26

In order to support rapid implementation of comprehensive school behavioral health, the Children's Mental Health Campaign will advance a request to establish a **formula grant** program

This is a scalable request (i.e. \$50M, \$55/student, \$75M, \$82/student)

Resources should help districts get closer to reaching recommended staffing ratios, but may also be used to support other SBBH needs such as creating partnership arrangements with community providers

The formula allocation should rely on districts submitting a plan (with support from the SBBH TA Center), and distribution should rely on district level data regarding social determinants of behavioral health.

All districts who submit a plan should be funded, but those funds should not supplant existing resources.





Turn & talk - 10 minutes

- **How would you explain to a colleague why Massachusetts needs a different approach to financing comprehensive school-based behavioral health?**
- **What benefits do you see to a formula grant approach?**
- **What opportunities does this create as it relates to school-based behavioral health? What unintended consequences might exist?**
- **What questions emerge for you?**



School-Based Behavioral Health Summit

Lunch plenary begins at **12:10**



Reducing disparities and centering equity in school behavioral health through effective engagement of students and families

Presenters:

Olga Lopez, M.Ed, Family Engagement Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Nadia Ward, M.Ed, PhD, Director of the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise and Professor of Education Practice, Clark University

Monica M. Pomare, M.Ed, Assistant Director, Division of Student Support, Boston Public Schools & Member of the Board of Directors of the Parent Professional Advocacy League, the Metro Boston Chapter of NAMI, & Mujeres Unidas Avanzando

Moderator:

Marisol Garcia, JD, Health Law Advocates



Family Engagement
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Family Engagement Resources

School Behavioral Health Summit

2023

Olga M. Lopez

Family Engagement Specialist

Office Student and Family Support

Olga.m.lopez@mass.gov



Family Engagement Goal


The primary goal of family engagement:

- Facilitate shared responsibility that contributes to the healthy development, learning, and growth of children – from the earliest ages into young adulthood;
- Build authentic relationships between students, families, educators, and the community; and
- Develop these relationships into meaningful partnerships rooted in the strengths and assets of all.



Family Engagement Framework

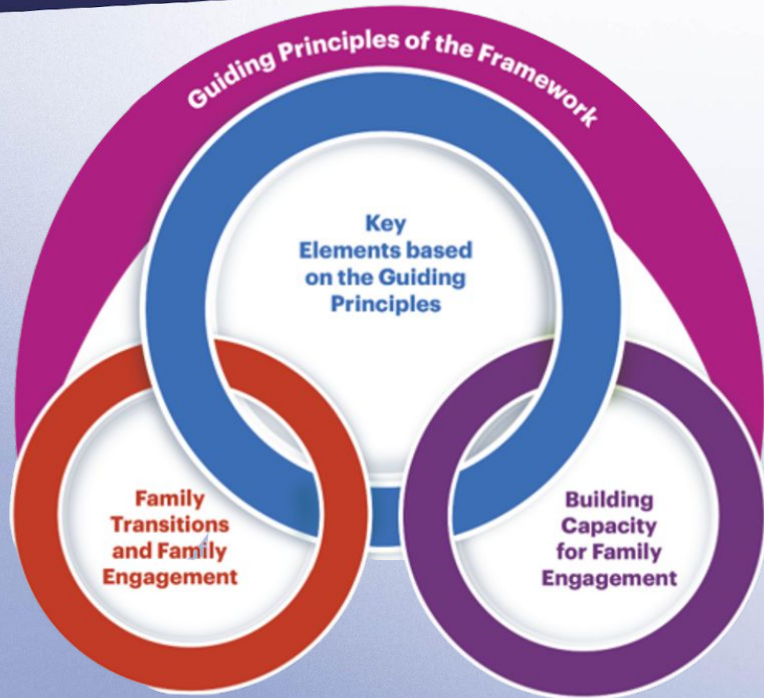
[2.0 Fundamentals Document](#)

A young girl with dark hair and a light blue shirt is looking over a stack of several hands of different skin tones that are piled on top of each other. The background is dark and out of focus.

Strengthening Partnerships A Framework for Prenatal through Young Adulthood Family Engagement in Massachusetts



Framework Components



The Framework consists of multiple sections that include:

- Guiding principles
- Four key elements that translate the guiding principles into practice
- Focus on transition
- Section on strengthening the family engagement capacity of organizations.

Effective Communication Strengthens Partnership

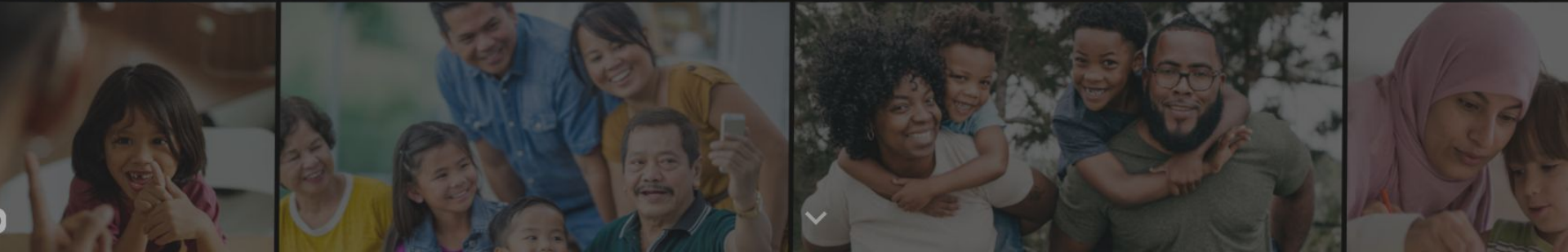
The Massachusetts family engagement framework, [Strengthening Partnerships](#), provides a roadmap for partnering with families to support better outcomes for students.

- Building positive relationships is the foundation of this partnership
- Every time you communicate a message of welcome, inclusion, and listening, you are investing in stronger relationships with families.



Welcoming Families Communication Toolkit

Recommended Practices, Templates and Resources for Schools and Districts



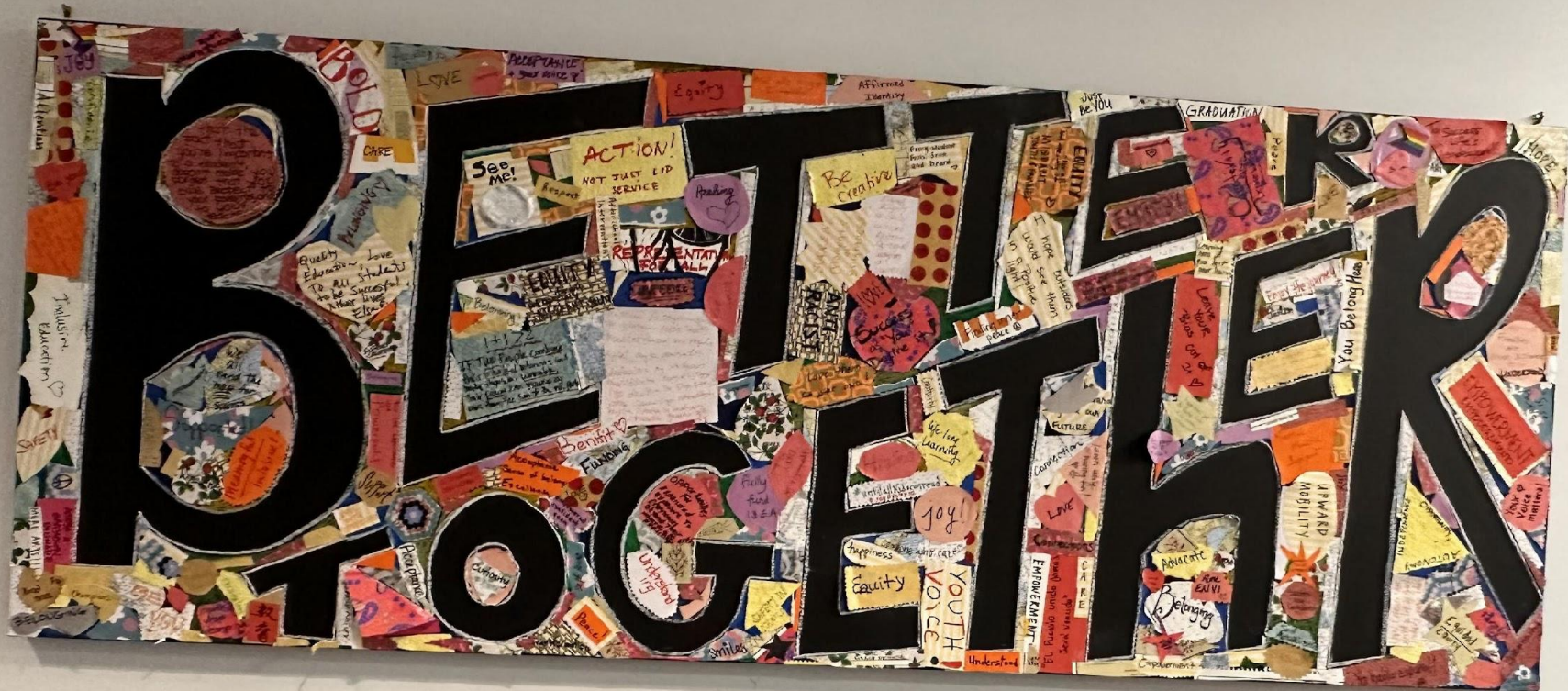
Family Engagement Resources

Upcoming events:

Family Engagement Professional ([calendar](#))

Family Friendly Tools:

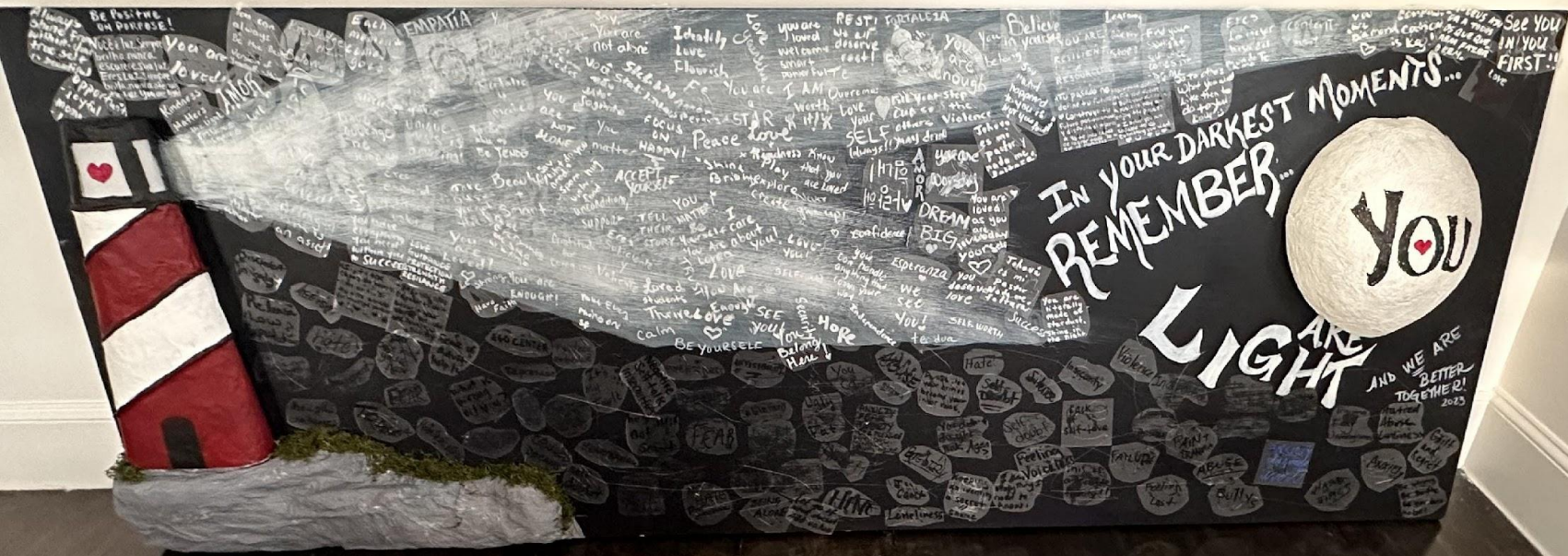
- Family communication Tool-Kit
- Communication [Tip-sheet](#)
- Family Portal [developing](#)
- Provider version: [What is Family Engagement? For Families | MASFEC](#)











Be positive on purpose!
Be kind to everyone you meet.
You are not alone
Love

EMPATHY
You are not alone
Love

PEACE
Love

ACCEPT YOURSELF
I'm here for you

Love
You are loved

DREAM BIG
You are stronger than you think

YOU ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

Be your own hero

See you in you first!!
Love

IN YOUR DARKEST MOMENTS... REMEMBER... LIGHT ARE BETTER TOGETHER! 2023





Lunch Plenary Q&A



Breakout sessions - begin at 1:10

Session 4: Increase & retain a diverse, well-trained and supported workforce

Location: Maria Hall (separate building - see signage)

Session 5: Ensure access to equitable & sustainable funding to support a full continuum of care

Location: Lower Student Union (main event space)

Session 6: Formalize & strengthen school & community partnerships

Location: Upper Student Union (1 floor up from main event space)



School-Based Behavioral Health Summit

Closing remarks and call to action
begins at **2:25**



Closing remarks & call to action

Courtney Chelo, Assistant Director of Government Relations MSPCC

Marjorie C. Decker, 25th Middlesex District,
Massachusetts House of Representatives



Call to action

The Children's Mental Health Campaign urges the Commonwealth to commit to a three-year plan for rapidly implementing equitable access to Comprehensive School-Based Behavioral Health for ALL students

School Based Behavioral Health Legislation

- An Act relative to MassHealth Reimbursement for Schools | [S794](#) *Sen. Moran*
- A Resolve Relative to the Reimbursement for School-Based Care | [H1194](#) *Rep. Garlick*
- An Act Relative to the Promotion of Mental Health Education | [H497](#) *Rep. Higgins & Rep. Kilcoyne*
- An Act Relative to Mental Health Education | [S240](#) *Sen. Collins*
- An Act Establishing a Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Implementation Coordinating Council | [H1979](#) *Rep. Decker*



An Act establishing a child and adolescent behavioral health implementation coordinating council H.1979 (Rep. Decker)



*An Act establishing a child and adolescent behavioral health implementation coordinating council
[H.1979](#) (Representative Decker)*

What problem does this bill address?

The youth behavioral health crisis threatens the immediate and long-term well-being of students, families, and school communities. Today, significant disparities in access, quality, and delivery of school-based behavioral health services exist throughout the state. Schools lack the guidance and resources necessary to address the behavioral health challenges facing their school communities.

What difference will this bill make?

This bill addresses root causes of inequitable access to **Comprehensive School Behavioral Health (CSBH)** by establishing systems and protocols for ensuring the behavioral health needs of all students, their families, and school staff are supported. This bill has two key elements:

1. **Establishment of a school based behavioral health implementation coordinating council.** Chaired by the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Behavioral Health for Integrated Resources for Children Project at UMass, *the council is responsible for developing a 3-year plan for the statewide implementation of CSBH.* This State-level planning effort must include guidance and support to districts, as well as clear goals and benchmarks for monitoring and evaluating key elements of CSBH implementation.
2. **Implementation of CSBH in each school district within three years.** The bill requires each school district to implement a CSBH system using a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework within three years. MTSS is an evidence-based, systemic practice that supports a rapid response to students' needs.

Why is this bill needed now?

The school setting provides an unparalleled opportunity to support the development and well-being of all students. The Commonwealth must ensure that all schools have the resources to support our children to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. There is clear evidence that CSBH models can reduce emergency room visits, hospitalizations, special education referrals, school disciplinary actions, and can increase school attendance rates.



Are you interested in getting involved?

- Subscribe to the CMHC Newsletter and Action Alerts
- Join the School-Based Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- Attend upcoming Lunch & Learns
- Speak with local and state policymakers or members of the press to help advance school-based behavioral health legislation
- Attend a State House Event
- And more!

Reach out to Julie Welch at jwelch@mspcc.org, or visit the Children's Mental Health Campaign website for more information.