

Fiscal Year 2022  
 School-based Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Centers:  
 DMH Line Item (5042-5000)

**FY 2022 Funding Request: \$150,000 (\$100,000 increase over FY21)**

About School-based Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Centers (TA Centers)

Children spend a significant portion of their lives at school and for children with behavioral health needs, schools often serve as a place where these needs are identified and treated. However, many schools do not have enough resources to address student behavioral health needs. As a result children with behavioral health challenges are often left without the proper tools and supports, may be expelled from early education settings, and risk dropping out of school.

The Children’s Mental Health Campaign successfully advocated for a \$50,000 earmark in the DMH Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services FY21 state budget to "be expended to provide services to address behavioral health needs arising from the impact of COVID-19, including the impact of remote learning, and services to assist school districts with behavioral health support." The earmark specifically calls for the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health to partner with the BIRCh Center to develop a plan for establishment of a school-based behavioral health technical assistance center.

Why funding is needed

Funding will be dedicated to planning and collaboration with community stakeholders as well as further qualitative and quantitative data collection to support the development of a school-based behavioral health technical assistance center.

Updates

FY21 GAA	FY22 Ask	FY22 Governor	FY22 House	FY22 Senate	Conference
\$50,000	\$150,000	No earmark	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$150,000