



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF **Public Instruction**

Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team Spring 2024 Updates

Staffing

The following staff joined the Student Services/Prevention and Wellness (SSPW) team or changed positions:

- Christine Anderson - Assistant Director
- Erick Blasing- Education Consultant, Stronger Connections Grant
- Andrea Gugel- Policy Initiatives Advisor- Executive, Division for Learning Support

Funding Opportunities

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Competitive Grant Inventory

All current and future competitive grant opportunities available through the Department of Public Instruction are listed on DPI's [Competitive Grant Inventory website](#).

Training and Resources

2024 Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference

The 2024 Building the Heart of Successful Schools (BHSS) Conference will be held on December 5, 2024, with a pre conference on December 4, 2024. Stay up to date on the 2024 Conference details by visiting the [Wisconsin Safe & Healthy Schools Center \(WISH\) website](#).

Watch the [2023 Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference recap video](#).

NEW! DPI's Roadmap for School Mental Health Improvement

The [Wisconsin School Mental Health Framework](#) provides a vision for building more equitable systems for promoting mental health in schools. Regardless of a school's current school mental health infrastructure, leaders can utilize the [Roadmap for School Mental Health Improvement](#) to strengthen their mental health supports. The Roadmap outlines five steps, based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Change Process, including: commitment, assessment, planning, implementation, and reflection. The Roadmap provides a menu of corresponding best practices in each step of the improvement journey. This offers a flexible approach to improvement; how a team moves through the process is dependent upon resources, existing structures, supports, and



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priorities. The Roadmap is meant to guide ongoing improvement work, focusing on the small steps that lead to big impacts. For a quick reference on how the Roadmap compliments the Wisconsin School Mental Health Framework, check out [Comprehensive School Mental Health from Theory to Action](#).

DPI Suicide Prevention Curriculum

The newly developed curriculum will be available on the [DPI Youth Suicide Prevention Student Programs website](#) in late spring. Voluntary implementation trainings will be available in multiple locations to explore the suicide prevention curriculum. The training includes an overview of the entire series of units (3rd - 5th, 6th - 8th, and 9th - 12th), breakouts for in-depth learning about the elementary or middle/high school format and content, best practices for implementation, resources for suicide prevention initiatives, and learning with and from peers and trainers. See the [flyer](#) for additional information.

School-Based Peer-Led Wellness Programs in Wisconsin

Students are actively helping their peers and addressing youth mental health in school districts throughout the state. [School-based peer-led wellness programs](#) are in place in 300 schools or districts, reaching the majority of Wisconsin's 421 school districts. Youth leading these groups, along with their adult advisors, help to improve mental health and wellness in their school communities, which often radiates out to their broader community. A variety of programs are in place, including [Hope Squad](#), [NAMI Raise Your Voice Club](#), [REDgen School](#), and [Sources of Strength](#). Each dot of the map represents a school or district participating in one of these peer-led wellness programs.

Peer to Peer Suicide Prevention Example Programs and Funding Opportunities Video

This [video](#) provides an overview of Peer to Peer Suicide Prevention programs most often used in Wisconsin, along with information on funding sources.

2018-2023 WI School Social Work Trend Data

This [one page summary](#) with graphs highlights the number of licensed and employed school social workers, percentage of public school districts with at least one school social worker, and the ratio of Wisconsin students to school social worker full-time equivalent (FTE) over the last five years. Some possible reasons for the improvements include impacts of the state [Aid for Mental Health Programs](#), impacts of the [Federal School-Based Mental Health Professionals Grant Program](#), and increased attention on the need for and importance of [comprehensive school mental health systems](#). Questions about the roles of



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mental health professionals may be answered in the publication, [School Based Mental Health Professionals in Wisconsin Document](#). Questions and answers about school social work licensing are found in this [Social Work Licensure Bulletin](#). Need additional information about supporting a school social worker on a Tier 1 License with Stipulations? Do not forget our publication, [Best Practice Considerations for Emerging Professionals: School Social Worker - One Year License with Stipulations \(Tier I\)](#).

Bullying Prevention Online Training Program

The Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team (SSPW), in collaboration with Dr. Chad Rose at the University of Missouri, is once again offering a free, online bullying prevention training course for Wisconsin educators! This course is designed for all educators including regular and special education teachers, student services professionals, administrators, out-of-school time program staff, and any other school personnel. This five-module course can be completed by an individual in approximately two hours.

The five modules provide foundational knowledge of bullying prevention:

Module 1: What is Bullying?

Module 2: Predictive and Protective Factors Associated with School Bullying

Module 3: Intervention for Bullying in the Schools

Module 4: Group and Individual Interventions and Federal Law Related to Bullying

Module 5: Resources

Please visit [DPI's Comprehensive Approach to Bullying Prevention website](#) to register for access to this training program. Please contact bullyingprevention@dpi.wi.gov with any questions!

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

The YRBS is part of a national effort by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor health-risk behaviors. The survey is available to all schools throughout the state and is administered to students in sixth to twelfth grades and helps the state and local communities monitor trends in youth health and risk behaviors. Knowing which healthy behaviors and which risk behaviors are on the rise helps schools and communities create more effective policies and programs to promote health enhancing behaviors.



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If you have not had the opportunity to review the 2021 YRBS statewide data and summary report, please visit the [YRBS website](#). These figures highlight the need for us to continue collecting YRBS data so we can identify how these challenges change over time and devote more attention to our most at-risk students.

Administration for the 2023 YRBS concluded in June, and Wisconsin's YRBS data was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shortly after survey administration concluded. Approximately seven hundred and sixty five (765) middle and high schools administered the YRBS in Wisconsin in 2023.

WDPI is currently awaiting their analysis and hoping to receive and share the results from the CDC soon. The statewide data as well as remaining school* and all district reports will be made available as soon as possible. As soon as the data is available, we will send an email via the YRBS email distribution list. **Public and some private high school reports have already been shared with the schools. The remaining schools are currently in process.*

If you haven't already, please subscribe to the YRBS e-mail list by sending an email to subscribe-wi_yrbs_general@lists.dpi.wi.gov with the word "Subscribe" in the heading. For any questions related to the YRBS, please visit the [YRBS website](#) or contact Casie Sulzle at casie.sulzle@dpi.wi.gov or Denise Kohout at denise.kohout@dpi.wi.gov.

School Health Profiles

Data collection for the 2024 School Health Profiles began in January. Approximately 400 schools within Wisconsin were selected to participate in this national survey. School Health Profiles contains two surveys: 1) a survey for principals and 2) a survey for lead health teachers. Both surveys are aimed at collecting data regarding current health and wellness programs and policies to inform future policies and to assist with funding allocations. If your school was selected and you are a principal or lead health teacher, please complete the survey right away. If you are unsure if your school was selected for the survey or you have any questions, please contact Casie Sulzle at casie.sulzle@dpi.wi.gov or Denise Kohout at denise.kohout@dpi.wi.gov.

Additional information regarding School Health Profiles including the 2022 School Health Profiles results can be found at the [School Health Profiles website](#).



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Wisconsin Educators, Please Tell Us What Training and Support You Need!

To help the [Wisconsin Safe & Healthy Schools Training Center](#) & Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction-SSPW Team better meet the professional learning needs of schools and communities, **please complete the following survey by March 22, 2024.**

The [survey](#) is completely voluntary and takes less than 10 minutes.

State Grants/Funding in Progress

Alcohol and Drug Abuse (AODA) Student Mini-Grant

Comprehensive school health programs require youth involvement to create environments conducive to healthy, resilient, and successful learners. As part of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) efforts to encourage youth initiatives, we offered the AODA Student Mini-Grant Program for the 35th year, in the 2023-2024 school year. Funds were made available to 68 programs throughout the state to support education, prevention, and intervention programs designed by the students, targeting alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) and other youth risk behaviors such as tobacco use, alcohol traffic safety (ATS), violence, suicide, etc. In addition, a major funding priority of the mini-grant program is the involvement of youth in the planning and implementation of the project. Consideration was given based on the educational value of the project and statewide geographic distribution of funds. Additional information is available on the [Student AODA Mini-Grant Program website](#).

Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grant

The Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team awarded 61 grants in round one of the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Suicide Prevention Grant in the 2023-24 school year. A second round of grants is currently undergoing review. The P2P grants have a focus on training public, private, tribal and charter Wisconsin high school students, to recognize the signs of suicide shown by fellow students. Peer-to-peer programs use messages of hope, health, and strength to develop peer leaders and resources for students who may be experiencing challenges. Recipients of a grant under this program may use the grant funds to support an existing peer-to-peer suicide prevention program or implement a new peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. The amount of each individual grant award may not exceed \$1,000. Additional information is available on the [Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grant website](#).



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2023-25 Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Program Grant

This two-year grant will be used by public school districts in Wisconsin to provide a myriad of supports and interventions in order to develop and deliver a comprehensive K-12 AODA program. Programming that may be supported by the grant includes: curriculum delivery, staff training, peer-to-peer program support and parent and community activities. Areas which may be addressed by the grant include: AODA, bullying/violence prevention, commercial tobacco/vaping prevention, and Alcohol Traffic Safety. A total of \$907,978 was allocated to 46 projects representing 63 school districts, including five consortium projects. This is a funding rate of 74 percent of the districts seeking funds, totaling 75 percent of the dollars requested by all applicants. Grantees receive first and second year funding of equal amounts for 2023-2025. Supporting documents, forms and resources can be found on the [AODA Program website](#).

Opioid Prevention Grant

Twenty-three school districts and private schools throughout Wisconsin competed for and received \$250,000 in Opioid Prevention Grant funds. The Opioid Prevention Grant funds were awarded by WDPI, in partnership with the WDHS, and represent a one-time, single-year opportunity for Wisconsin schools.

Federal Grants/Funding in Progress

School-based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-being of Students

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction was awarded a five-year cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of this grant is to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of school-age children and adolescents in underserved and disproportionately affected communities. The DPI will use the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model to: establish key partnerships to support school health programs; promote dissemination and implementation of CDC school health guidelines, tools, and resources through Professional Development (PD) and Technical Assistance (TA); and use action planning to implement physical activity, school nutrition, and school health policies, practices, programs, and services within state and local education agencies (LEAs), schools, and out-of-school time (OST) settings. More information will be coming soon about how to join the Healthy Schools Academy.



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Project AWARE 2023 (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) Grant

DPI was awarded its third Project AWARE grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for \$9 million for five years through 2028. The purpose of this program is to develop a sustainable infrastructure for school-based mental health programs and services by leveraging state, regional, and local level partnerships to implement mental health-related promotion, awareness, prevention, intervention, and resilience activities to ensure that school-aged youth have access and are connected to appropriate and effective behavioral health services. This project will focus on building comprehensive school mental health systems in the Wabeno and Crandon communities, with an emphasis on bringing added services and support for students who identify as LGBTQ+. The other focus of this project will be on enhancing regional partnerships to increase accessibility of school mental health technical assistance statewide, with a focus on rural and under-resourced communities. For more information on AWARE 2023, contact the Project Director, Jess Frain at jessica.frain@dpi.wi.gov.

Stronger Connections Grant Competition

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) was signed into law by President Biden on June 25, 2022. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI) was allocated \$12.5 million to administer a BSCA Stronger Connections competitive grant to high-need Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to support safe and healthy students under [section 4108 of the ESEA](#).

The Stronger Connections Grant was open for applications from September 25-November 15, 2023. Following the application submissions, an external and internal review process was conducted. DPI received a total of 121 applications out of 302 eligible high-needs LEAs which equated to 40 percent of eligible applicants. Our 121 applications were made up of 117 Public School Districts and four Independent Charter Schools requesting a total of \$34.7 million.

On Friday, February 23, 40 LEAs were awarded the Stronger Connections Grant funds. The performance period of the grant runs from February 1, 2024-September 30, 2026.

STOP School Violence Grant

The STOP School Violence Grant was funded by the US Department of Justice for \$2 million over three years. The Department of Public Instruction is partnering with CESA 10 in order to implement the Trauma Research Awareness for Isolated and New Educators in



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Rural Wisconsin (TRAIN-WI) Project across the southern part of Wisconsin. CESA 10 has already been highly successful in implementing the TRAIN-WI Project in the northern part of the state. The TRAIN-WI Project helps educators to gain a comprehensive understanding of trauma through providing training in the Neurosequential Model in Education (NME), developed by Bruce Perry and the Neurosequential Network. Thus far, 161 people in southern Wisconsin have completed the Introduction to NME training through the TRAIN-WI Project. In addition, 32 people have begun the 11-month NME Trainer training. In spring and summer of 2024, an additional 19 cohorts of Introduction to NME training will be offered in southern Wisconsin. The project's goal is that trainers and advanced trainers are located at CESAs, as well as in large districts, to ensure long-term sustainability and to exponentially increase the number of adults and students benefiting from the program. The TRAIN-WI Project has also hosts virtual implementation calls to provide ongoing professional learning and collaboration opportunities to those who have completed the training. A newly launched website (<https://trainwi.cesa10.org/home>) provides additional trauma sensitive schools resources. For more information, please contact Libby Strunz, School Mental Health Consultant, at elizabeth.strunz@dpi.wi.gov.

Title IV, Part B, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Grantees receive a five-year award to provide academic enrichment. More information on the program can be found on the [Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Program website](#).

School-Based Mental Health Professionals Grant

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education for five years through September, 2025. The purpose of this project is to increase the number of school-based mental health service professionals recruited and retained through a multi-faceted approach. The Federal School-Based Mental Health Professionals (SBMHP) Grant Project is using federal funds to expand pathways with contracted University of Wisconsin (UW) programs for aspiring school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers to become licensed school-based mental health professionals with the goal of reducing pupil to pupil service professional ratios. The SBMHP Grant Project is partnering with ten UW pupil services programs: four school social work programs, three school social work programs, and three school counseling programs. This expansion includes using funds to recruit, expand online programming, remove barriers for potential students and assist in placing and retaining licensed professionals in Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with demonstrated need. Project activities will prioritize attracting individuals who reflect the racial and ethnic



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diversity of the local population of the LEA's community. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the SBMHP Grant Project will be partnering with UW partners to create free virtual field supervision and mentoring modules for pupil services staff to expand school based support for early and new professionals. For more information on the School-Based Mental Health Professionals Grant Project, reference the [Federal School-Based Mental Health Professionals Grant Program website](#).

Title IV, Part-A

Districts with a Title I allocation in the previous fiscal year receive a formula allocation to support enhancements in well-rounded education, safe and healthy school environments and effective use of technology. For more information, visit the [Title IV-A website](#). For the Safe and Healthy Students component of this Title, professional development opportunities can be found on the [WISH Center website](#).