The Wisconsin School Mental Health Framework:

Building and Sustaining a Comprehensive System



A Vision of Well-being

The Framework establishes a common language and approach to coordinating and delivering school mental health services, with the goal of increasing health and educational equity in Wisconsin. The Framework outlines a system of supports that approaches mental health as an individual and community asset.

A Comprehensive Approach

Wisconsin adapted the National Center for School Mental Health's model for a Comprehensive School Mental Health System (CSMHS) to include six components (pictured here). A CSMHS provides services and supports that promote positive school climate, social and emotional learning, and well-being, while reducing the prevalence and severity of mental illness.





A Trauma Sensitive Schools (TSS) Lens

A CSMHS is developed, implemented, and continuously improved through DPI's six guiding principles of TSS: safety, cultural responsiveness, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment. A TSS acknowledges the prevalence and impact of trauma, including historical and racialized trauma, and works to assess and change policies and practices that act as barriers to wellbeing.



A Shared Commitment



A CSMHS relies on collaboration and teaming across diverse school and community stakeholders with a shared commitment to promoting well-being in their specific roles. A team of multidisciplinary school professionals works in strategic partnership with students, caregivers, and community partners with the goal of engaging voices from historically marginalized communities and those with lived experience of mental health challenges to create a school mental health system that serves all students and families.

A Shared Understanding

The school-community works to establish an accurate, shared understanding of mental health through mental health literacy and stigma reduction efforts. Stakeholders deepen their knowledge of the social and environmental conditions that impact mental health, and work to leverage positive influencers and mitigate negative influencers. This shared understanding shifts the culture and climate of the school and lays the foundation for a more equitable system.





An Integrated System of Supports

Schools leverage all aspects of existing Equitable Multi-level Systems of Support as they relate to behavior and academics to create an integrated system. A full continuum of mental health supports, including mental health promotion, early intervention, and treatment services, promotes student and staff well-being with a strong focus on universal prevention activities.

