# Building Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems in Wisconsin 

## Get Kids Ahead Initiative 2022-2023

## Top Strategies Used By Grantees*

20\%
Suicide prevention, bullying prevention, and safety

## $8 \%$

Family engagement and support
29\%
Student and family access to therapy services

400
Staff training and professional development

## $35 \%$

School mental health professional staffing**

## Get Kids Ahead Initiative

The Get Kids Ahead (GKA) Initiative provides funding to Wisconsin schools to help build and sustain Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS). A CSMHS provides a continuum of services and supports to promote student and staff mental health and wellbeing.

In 2022 and 2023, a total of $\$ 30$ million was allocated to 450 Wisconsin school districts, independent charter schools, and tribal schools.

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## Get Kids Ahead Initiative 2022-2023

## Social Emotional Learning

$39 \%$ of grantees spent, or plan to spend, funding to support students' social emotional learning (SEL). SEL can contribute to:

- improved academic achievement and engagement;
- decreased externalizing behaviors;
- cultivation of coping skills, resiliency, and protective factors, contributing to wellbeing; and - increased sense of school safety and belonging.
(CASEL 2024)


## Staff Training

$40 \%$ of grantees spent, or plan to spend, funding on staff training, professional development, or coaching.

## School Mental Health Professionals

$35 \%$ of grantees spent, or plan to spend, funding to increase staffing of school mental health professionals.

School Counselors: 55 Grantees

School Social Workers: 33 Grantees

School Psychologists: 23 Grantees

Mental Health Navigators: 23 Grantees

Interventionists: 7 Grantees

Other MH Staffing/Stipends: 23 Grantees

## Access to Therapy Services

$29 \%$ of grantees spent, or plan to spend, funding to increase student and family access to therapy services. This includes school and community-based therapists, student and family assistance plans, telehealth services, and mental health navigation.

