



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF **Public Instruction**

Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team Fall 2023 Updates

Staffing

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

- Michael Morgen - Education Consultant/School Safety, Driver Education, AODA
- Hafsa Mohamed - Grants Specialist
- John Bowser - Research and Evaluation Consultant
- Casie Sulzle - Research and Evaluation Consultant/Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Coordinator

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](#).

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 Competition is now open for eligible high need LEAs and *is due to DPI by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15th*. The grant application, guidance document, rubric, list of eligible high-need LEAs, and equitable services for private school materials are now available on the [Stronger Connections Grant website](#).

Alcohol and Drug Abuse (AODA) Student Mini-Grant

The Department of Public Instruction's Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team is pleased to announce the 35th Annual Student Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Mini-Grant competition. Student mini-grants fund prevention and wellness projects targeting AODA and other youth risk behaviors (use of commercial tobacco and vaping,



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violence, bullying, suicide, alcohol traffic safety, and sexual risk behaviors) developed by students for students. Each funded project may be awarded up to \$1,000.

Applications are *due to DPI electronically by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023*. The application and additional information can be found on the [Student AODA Mini-Grant Program website](#).

Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grant

The Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grant Competition for the 2023-24 school year. Any school at which pupils attend high school grades is eligible for this grant. The amount of each individual grant award may not exceed \$1,000. Schools are eligible *even if* they were previous grant recipients and are eligible to apply for a grant renewal for up to three years.

Recipients of a grant under this program may use the grant funds to support an existing, or to implement a new, peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. Peer-to-peer training ensures that peers can help other peers during troubling times by having the knowledge and tools needed to recognize warning signs of suicide and depression and connect them to resources and a caring adult.

Please see the [Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grant website](#) for the application and additional information. *Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4th, 2023*. A second round of grant applications will be available in late fall with a detailed timeline posted on the webpage. Grant-related questions can be directed to: peertopeer@dpi.wi.gov.

School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMHS) State Funding

In the 2023-2025 State Budget, Act 19 changed how funds are distributed under the SBMHS Grant program, from a competition to a per pupil allocation to all school districts and Independent Charter Schools (ICSs). Grant amounts are calculated using current year revenue limit membership for school districts and current year enrollment for ICSs. Under Act 19, funding for SBMHS allocations is \$25,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 and in Fiscal Year 2025, a \$15,000,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2023 base funding. This is a one-time increase, meaning the base funding for the 2025-27 biennium will revert to \$10,000,000.



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The Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimated that the funding under Act 19 will provide about \$31 per pupil, based on 2022-23 revenue limit membership and ICSs enrollments. Given that funds will be distributed on a per pupil basis to all school districts and ICS based on current year revenue limit membership for school districts and current year enrollment for ICS, the aid payments in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 will depend on actual enrollments.

DPI will provide school districts and ICS with estimated allocations for the current school year by December 1 and finalized allocations by the fourth Monday in March, when Per Pupil Aid is paid to school districts; final aid payments will be distributed by June 30. Additional information can be found on the [School-Based Mental Health Services State Funding website](#).

Aid for Mental Health Programs

Claim forms are due to DPI in the spring each year and can be found on the [Aid for School Mental Health Programs website](#). This program provides partial reimbursement to eligible school districts, private schools, and independent charter schools for salary and fringe benefits paid to employ, hire, or retain licensed social workers or the costs to contract for the services of a social worker when the eligible entity increased in its expenditures in the prior school year compared to the immediately preceding school year.

Training and Resources

2023 Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference

The 2023 Building the Heart of Successful Schools (BHSS) Conference will be held December 7, 2022. Preconferences will be held on December 6, 2023. Registration and brochure are available on the [WISH Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference website](#).

New Anti-Human Trafficking Training Opportunities

DPI's partnership with the Department of Children and Families continues in the area of anti-human trafficking. This year, based on feedback from the field, we are offering a session that focuses on the exploitation of boys and young men, and a session on virtual/web-based solicitation and exploitation. Thanks to funding provided by DCF, these trainings continue to be free, however you must register. We are not able to record these trainings, so please find a time that works for you and commit to attending.



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[2023-2024 Human Trafficking Trainings - Dates, Times, and Registration](#)

New School Social Worker Resource Sharing Sessions - Ask Questions, Find Resources!

This is an opportunity geared towards individuals new or fairly new, to the field of school social work - all school social workers are welcome. Drop in to chat about resources available through DPI, ask practice questions, and get support from the state's school social work consultant and special guests. General session topics are provided, however discussions may stray from the topic. This is not a training and does not supplant coursework from a university program, but instead it is another place to ask questions and learn about state and national resources. These sessions will not be recorded, however resources shared will be added to the webpage.

These sessions are drop-in and no registration is needed.

- Cost: Free
- Time: 1- 2 pm
- [2023-24 Dates, Topics, and Links to Join Sessions](#)
- [Session Handouts](#)

Best Practice Considerations for Emerging Professionals: School Social Worker - One Year License with Stipulations (Tier I)

The [Best Practice Considerations for Emerging Professionals](#) document outlines considerations for professionals with a Tier 1 -One Year License with Stipulations. These professionals have not completed the requirements for a regular Tier II Provisional license and need additional support in their roles. They have not yet demonstrated complete knowledge or skill in the standards and competencies required of school social workers.

Results of the 2022 School Social Work Survey Now Available

School social workers possess diverse knowledge and skills to improve educational outcomes for students. Results of the Wisconsin School Social Worker Survey are used to help describe school social work practice in Wisconsin. This information can be helpful for district officials who wish to compare their school social work services to those in other Wisconsin school districts or are considering adding school social work services to better support students.

[Longitudinal Analysis of School Social Work Practice in Wisconsin \(1998-2022\)](#)



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New School Counselor Orientation

The New to the Field School Counselor Orientation is an opportunity to learn and dialogue about important school counseling topics and best practices, network with other professionals new to the school counseling role in the last year or two, discover available resources and supports, and connect with the state school counseling consultant. Topics covered by the DPI school counseling consultant and guest speakers include: Suicide Prevention, ASCA National Model, Supporting LGBTQ+ Students, Social Emotional Learning, Compassion Resilience, Career Readiness - elementary through high school, Resource Deep Dive, Classroom management tips, and an opportunity to get answers to your most pressing questions from our professional panel. Join the learning and conversation and get support in your new role because we all know that learning it is different than living it!

- Wednesday, November 1st, 2023
- WSCA Preconference Full-Day Session: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, lunch included
- Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

[WSCA Preconference Workshops Website](#)

New School Nurse Orientation

[Registration](#) is now open for the New School Nurse Orientation on October 24-25, 2023 at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. This training is for those nurses who will be working for the first time in or with a school district. It is appropriate for school nurses who have worked in a school setting zero to three years. Topics that will be covered include guidance on the laws that affect school health, information on IEPs, 504's, school health records, and delegation in the school setting.

Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) Training Updated

The [bloodborne pathogen training module](#) has been updated. Beginning the 2023-24 school year, participants will have the opportunity to both print out a certificate of successful completion of the training module in addition to sending an email to the school administrator.

DPI School Nurse/Health Services Consultant Holds Office Hours

Starting September 12, 2023, the state consultant will hold monthly office hours for school nurses to hear updated information and to network with other school nurses throughout the state. For a list of the dates refer to the [#1 DPI School Nurse Update](#)



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newsletter. To subscribe to these newsletters or receive information regarding school health services contact Louise Wilson: louise.wilson@dpi.wi.gov.

Updated COVID-19 and Pandemic Webpages

DPI's [COVID-19](#) and [pandemic](#) webpages have been updated. There is no COVID-19-specific guidance document listed for the coming school year. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC's) webpage, last updated in May, is referenced.

DPI's [COVID website](#) reflects information specific to COVID-19 post pandemic, including information on Long COVID, a complication of infection with the SARs -CoV2 virus. Use of particular resources and mitigation strategies may be based upon local decisions and circulation levels of the virus. Some resources such as isolation room considerations, may be used in the event of any highly contagious respiratory germ. Infection control and mitigation is moving away from pathogen specific to mode of transmission prevention strategies.

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.

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.

Thank you to the schools who participated in the 2023 YRBS. 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. WDPI is currently awaiting their review and hoping to receive the results soon. The statewide data as well as school and district reports will be made available as



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soon as possible. As soon as the data is available, we will send an email via the YRBS email distribution list.

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 is set to begin in January.

Approximately 425 schools within Wisconsin will be selected to participate in the 2024 School Health Profiles 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. Once WDPI is notified which schools are included in the sample, schools will be notified. If your school is notified and you are a principal or lead health teacher, please complete the survey right away.

Additional information regarding School Health Profiles including the 2022 School Health Profiles results can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbs/school-health-profiles>. For any questions related to School Health Profiles, please contact Casie Sulzle at casie.sulzle@dpi.wi.gov or Denise Kohout at denise.kohout@dpi.wi.gov.

State Grants in Progress

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](#).



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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 in Progress

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 TRAIN-WI Project across the southern part of Wisconsin. CESA 10 has already been highly successful in implementing the Trauma Research Awareness for Isolated and New Educators in Rural Wisconsin (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 for Education (NME), developed by Bruce Perry and the Neurosequential Network. The NME training will be offered to nearly 300 school districts and over 1,500 school personnel; in addition, both trainer and advanced trainer certifications are offered. 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. 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 webpage](#).

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



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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 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 Project reference the [Federal School-Based Mental Health Professionals Grant Program website](#).

Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) Grant

A second AWARE grant was funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for \$9 million for five years through 2024. The purposes of this project are to: 1) increase the capacity for schools to respond to onsite mental health crises; 2) increase youth and family voice and authentic engagement; 3) improve cross-system collaboration to improve mental health supports; and 4) increase access/engagement in mental health treatment for children and youth. The focus is on the needs and supports of students, staff, and families in the School District of La Crosse, the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District, and the Lakeland Area Consortium, comprised of five small school districts: Lac du Flambeau #1, Lakeland Union High School, Minocqua J1, Woodruff J1 and North Lakeland, with project innovations and lessons learned available to all schools state-wide. For more information on AWARE, contact the Project Coordinator, Molly Herrmann at molly.herrmann@dpi.wi.gov.

School Climate Transformation Grant

This grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, through 2023. The purpose of this funding is to improve school climate across the state by increasing capacity to implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) at the high school level. PBIS is an implementation framework for maximizing the selection and use of evidence-based prevention and intervention practices along a multi-tiered continuum that supports the



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academic, social, emotional, and behavioral competence of all students. SBIRT is an efficient, evidence-based, and comprehensive service that addresses selected behavioral health concerns among adolescents (e.g., alcohol/other drug involvement), and is often implemented by pupil services professionals.

Over the course of the project, DPI hopes to support high schools in reaching PBIS fidelity, implementing SBIRT with fidelity, or reaching PBIS fidelity and implementing SBIRT. Participating schools collect Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Department of Education School Climate Survey data from students and staff each year. This data will be used to better understand the impact of implementing SBIRT and PBIS on school climate.

Participating schools receive free training, ongoing coaching/implementation support, and funding. For more information, contact Jess Frain, School Mental Health Consultant at jessica.frain@dpi.wi.gov or check out the Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools (WISH) Center's [School SBIRT 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](#).