

# FY22-23 School Mental Health Survey Results

Released by the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) & the  
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)

*September 2022*

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

- [Act 55](#) added [Section 1305.1-B to the PA Public School Code](#), requiring the School Safety and Security Committee to develop and distribute a new survey instrument to measure mental health services in school entities (i.e., school districts; intermediate units; area career and technical schools; and charter, regional charter and cyber charter schools).
- Survey was part of the School Mental Health & Safety and Security Grant application.

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

Responses are confidential and exempt from Right-To-Know Law.

## Section 1305.1-B. Survey of School Mental Health Services.

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### (c) Confidentiality of data.--

- (1) School specific data collected through the survey instrument by the committee and the findings of the committee shall remain confidential and shall be exempt from access under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.
- (2) The committee may release aggregate data at its discretion.**

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

Act 55 had five questions included:

1. Whether the school entity currently offers mental health education in the classroom and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming;
2. Whether the school entity has adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum as part of its health education or other subject areas and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming and who provides the programming;
3. The manner in which mental health programming is offered;
4. Whether any of the tiered supports from the Committee's Behavioral Health and School Climate Baseline Criteria have been met by the school entity; and
5. Resources/support needed to improve programming and to meet or increase tiered supports for the Baseline Criteria.

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

## General Respondent Information:

738 eligible school entities submitted applications as of August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline in PCCD's Egrants system (Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> extraction):

- 495 School Districts out of 500 (99% response rate)
- 149 Charter Schools out of 181 (82%)
- 66 Career and Technical Centers out of 74 (92%)
- 28 Intermediate Units out of 29 (97%)

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #1:** Whether the school entity currently offers mental health education in the classroom and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming.

Q1. Does your school entity offer mental health education in the classroom and/or school-wide programming?

- **672 out of 738 respondents answered YES (91%)**
  - School districts: 481 out of 495 (97%)
  - Charters: 141 out of 149 (97%)
  - Area Career and Tech. Centers: 26 out of 66 (39%)
  - IUs: 24 out of 28 (86%)
  - 408 out of 433 Urban (City/Suburban)(94%) and 264 out of 305 Rural (Town/Rural)(87%)

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #1:** Whether the school entity currently offers mental health education in the classroom and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming.

Q1.1. How many school employees provide mental health education in the classroom or another school setting?

- Out of 672 respondents answering YES to offering MH education:
  - 55,061 total employees provide programming [School District Only: 42,079 employees]
  - Averages 82 employees per school entity [School District Avg.: 87 average employees]
  - Range: 0 to 4,000 employees

\*PLEASE NOTE: Responses to all employee and/or consultant questions contained herein are self-reported by the respondents and include both actual and estimated information. The accuracy of these estimates is not confirmed. These caveats should be considered when considering the responses to these questions.

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #1:** Whether the school entity currently offers mental health education in the classroom and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming.

Q1.2. How many consultants/contractors offer mental health education in the classroom or another school setting?

- Out of 672 respondents answering YES to offering MH education:
  - 3,003 consultants/contractors provide programming [School Districts Only: 2,103]
  - Averages 4.5 per school entity [School District Avg.: 4.4]
  - Range: 0 to 300 consultants/contractors

\*See NOTE under Q1.1 (prior slide) as caveats apply for these responses.



# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #2:** Whether the school entity has adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum as part of its health education or other subject areas and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming and who provides the programming.

Q2. Has your school entity adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum to shape instruction or programming?

- **622 out of 738 respondents answered YES (84%)**
  - School districts: 445 out of 495 (90%)
  - Charters: 130 out of 149 (87%)
  - Area Career and Tech. Centers: 24 out of 66 (36%)
  - IUs: 23 out of 28 (82%)
  - 375 out of 433 (86%) Urban (City/Suburb) and 247 out of 305 (81%) Rural (Town/Rural)

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #2 (continued):** Whether the school entity has adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum as part of its health education or other subject areas and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming and who provides the programming.

Q2.1. Where is the mental and/or behavioral health curriculum currently taught or implemented?

- **Health safety and physical education (69% of all respondents) [SDs Only: 76%]**
- Other (e.g., program implemented in all classrooms or during homeroom, assemblies, etc.) (50%) [School Districts: 52%]
- Special Education (47%) [School Districts: 47%]
- Life Skills (38%) [School Districts: 44%]
- Not taught in classroom but part of Tier 2 & 3 MTSS Programming (32%) [SDs: 32%]
- Social Studies (19%) [School Districts: 17%]

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #2 (continued):** Whether the school entity has adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum as part of its health education or other subject areas and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming and who provides the programming.

Q2.2. In which grade level are they taught or implemented?

- **Middle School/Junior High (87% of all respondents)** [School Districts: 94%]
- Elementary School (86%) [School Districts: 94%]
- High School (76%) [School Districts: 84%]

Q2.3. How many school-employed individuals teach or implement these curricula?

- 58,506 total of all respondents; 88.24 on average per entity \*CAVEATS APPLY

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #2 (continued):** Whether the school entity has adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum as part of its health education or other subject areas and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming and who provides the programming.

Q2.4. What is the role of the individuals who teach and/or implement the curricula?

- |                                                              |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • <b>Teacher (78% of all respondents)</b>                    | <b>[School Districts: 85%]</b> |
| • <b>School Counselor (75%)</b>                              | <b>[School Districts: 85%]</b> |
| • Social Worker (36%)                                        | [School Districts: 36%]        |
| • Consultants (27%)                                          | [School Districts: 34%]        |
| • Administrator (25%)                                        | [School Districts: 22%]        |
| • School Psychologist (23%)                                  | [School Districts: 27%]        |
| • Other (20%) (e.g., SRO/SPO, BH specialists, MH therapists) | [School Districts: 12%]        |
| • School Nurse (15%)                                         | [School Districts: 18%]        |
| • School Safety Coordinator (11%)                            | [School Districts: 11%]        |

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #2 (continued):** ...who provides the programming?

Q2.5. If you utilize a contracted entity/consultant, how many contracted individuals teach or implement these curricula?

- 1,261 total of all respondents; 1.9 on average per entity \*CAVEATS APPLY

Q2.6. What service provider(s) does your school entity contract with to teach or implement the curriculum?

- Examples: Health providers, victim service providers, counselors/therapists, IUs, drug and alcohol service providers, nonprofit organizations. Wide range.

Q2.7. What are the credentials required of the contracted individuals responsible for the teaching or implementing the curricula?

- Licensed Mental Health Professionals (54%); Teacher Certification (47%); School certification (e.g., school psychologist)(33%); Other (31%).

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #3:** The manner in which mental health programming is offered.

Q3. Does your school entity currently offer training or professional development focused on any of the following topics?

- Recognizing and assisting students experiencing mental/behavioral health needs and prepare them to make appropriate interventions and referrals (Examples: Tier 1 MTSS; Youth Mental Health First Aid, etc.) (91%) [School Districts: 92%]
- Topics related to staff well being and mental health (75%) [School Districts: 77%]
- Unsure (6%) [School Districts: 5%]

Q3.1. Please provide a short narrative about the training or professional development that your school entity uses.

- 594 open text responses – require more analysis.

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #4:** Whether any of the tiered supports from the [Committee's Behavioral Health and School Climate Baseline Criteria](#) have been met by the school entity.

Q4. Please indicate which of the following 'Tier One' Behavioral Health and School Climate Baseline Criteria your school entity currently meets (12 standards):

- **Out of a total of 8,856 possible Tier 1 criteria that could be selected, 6,823 were selected as being met by school entities (77%)**
- **Out of total of 5,940 possible Tier 1 criteria for school districts only, 4,890 were met (82%)**
- **125 out of 738 entities reported meeting ALL MH Tier 1 Criteria (17%)**
  - School districts: 98 out of 495 (20%)
  - Charters: 23 out of 149 (15%)
  - Area Career and Tech. Centers: 2 out of 66 (3%)
  - IUs: 2 out of 28 (7%)
  - 83 out of 433 (19%) Urban (City/Suburb) and 42 out of 305 (14%) Rural (Town/Rural)

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #4 (Continued):** Tier One Mental Health Standards (12 Standards in total)

Additional Respondent Breakdown about Tier 1:

- Average # of criteria/standards met of all entities: 9
  - School Districts: 10
  - Charters: 9
  - CTCs: 6
  - IUs: 8

Most significant portion of all entities (n=279, 38% of all respondents) reported missing only one to two Tier 1 criteria

Of those missing 3 criteria (n=381, 55% of all respondents), the areas that they were most generally deficient were:

- Fulltime Social Worker
- Behavioral Health Assessment
- Trauma-Informed Plan



# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #4 (Continued):** Tier One Mental Health Standards (12 Standards in total)

## **Top Six MH Tier 1 Criteria Met of All Respondents:**

- School Nurse (94%) [School District: 99%]
- SAP Team (92%) [School District: 100%]
- Counselors per school level (90%) [School District: 94%]
- Staff training (e.g., PBIS/MTSS) (89%) [School District: 93%]
- Threat Assessment Plan (85%) [School District: 89%]
- Referrals to outside counseling (84%) [School District: 94%]

## **Bottom Six MH Tier 1 Criteria of All Respondents:**

- Behavioral Health Assessment (51% noted they met this criteria; so, 49% did not) [SD: 56%]
- Fulltime Social Worker (59%) [School District: 63%]
- Trauma-Informed Plan (59%) [School District: 61%]
- School Climate survey (68%) [School District: 71%]
- School Psychologist (72%) [School District: 85%]
- Prevention education (81%) [School District: 84%]

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

## Question #4 (Continued): Tier 2 Mental Health Standards

Q5. Please indicate which of the following 'Tier Two' Behavioral Health and School Climate Baseline Criteria your school entity currently meets (12 standards):

- **Out of a total of 8,856 possible Tier 2 criteria that could be selected, 5,615 were met (63%)**
- **Out of total of 5,940 possible Tier 2 criteria for school districts only, 3,939 were met (66%)**
- **Average # of Tier 2 Standards Met by Entity Type:**
  - School Districts: 8                      Charters: 8                      CTCs: 5                      IUs: 7
- **43 school entities reported meeting all 12 Tier 2 MH standards (6%).**
  - 32 School Districts, 9 Charters, 1 IU, 1 CTC

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

## Question #4 (Continued): Tier Three Mental Health Standards

Q6. Please indicate which of the following 'Tier Three' Behavioral Health and School Climate Baseline Criteria your school entity currently meets (12 standards):

- **Out of a total of 8,856 possible Tier 3 criteria that could be selected, 4,269 were met (48%)**
- **Out of total of 5,940 possible Tier 3 criteria for school districts only, 2,880 were met (48%)**
- **Average # of Tier 3 Standards Met by Entity Type:**
  - School Districts: 6                      Charters: 6                      CTCs: 4                      IUs: 6
- **11 school entities reported meeting all 12 Tier 3 MH standards (1%).**
  - 6 School Districts, 4 Charters, 1 IU

# Survey of School Mental Health Services

**Question #5:** Resources/support needed to improve programming and to meet or increase tiered supports for the Baseline Criteria.

Q7. Please rank in order of most important to least important the following additional resources or support your school entity needs to improve mental health education programming and/or curricula:

- Additional funding to hire/contract staff (#1 priority cited, n=483)
- Additional funding to expand program offerings (2<sup>nd</sup> highest #1 priority, n=114)
- Professional development/training (3<sup>rd</sup> highest #1 priority, n=110)
- Remaining 4 categories received less than 10 #1 priority ratings: Support with policy development and implementation; Support coordinating with local partners/agencies; Technical assistance to address resource gaps for students/families; Increased access to data to inform decision-making

Q8: What additional resources or support does your school entity need to meet all three tiers of the School Safety and Security Committee's Behavioral Health and School Climate Baseline criteria? 730 individual responses\*

# Survey of School Mental Health Services: Key Take-Aways

- Nearly all (91%) of school entities report offering MH education programming of some sort in the classroom.
- Over 80% have adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum to shape instruction or programming.
- Majority of programming is taught in health safety and physical education classes. Middle school and elementary school are the main focus areas of the programming.
- Teachers and counselors are by far the largest contingent of employees providing the programming. There are a wide range of contractors/consultant types that provide programming as well.
- Nearly all school entities (91%) report offering training or professional development to assist in recognizing/assisting students with MH needs.

# Survey of School Mental Health Services: Key Take-Aways

- 77% of Tier 1 MH criteria were selected by all school entities as having been met; 82% of Tier 1 MH criteria were selected by school districts as having been met.
- 17% of all entities reported meeting all 12 MH Tier 1 Criteria.
- Top 3 Tier 1 MH Criteria that school entities reported meeting:
  - 1) School Nurse
  - 2) SAP Team
  - 3) Counselors per school level
- Bottom 3 Tier 1 MH Criteria that school entities reported as a challenge:
  - 1) Behavioral Health Assessment
  - 2) Fulltime Social Worker
  - 3) Trauma-Informed Plan
- Vast majority of school entities cited funding to hire/contract staff as #1 priority issue to improve MH education programming and curricula.

Questions? Please email  
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