

# Critical Steps to Prepare for the Impending Mental Health Surge

Anticipating Unprecedented Demand for Mental Health Care in Schools

#### We Would Love to Crowdsource Questions and Ideas



What questions are you tackling that would benefit from additional research?



## Data, Resources, Best Practice Leads

Share your successes to help other districts better serve their students and communities



## Request to Speak With an EAB Expert

Partners: Schedule a consultative conversation through your dedicated advisor





Find the Chat Button at the bottom of your screen



We help schools support students from enrollment to graduation and beyond

**NOOTED IN RESEARCH** 

7,500<sup>+</sup> Peer-tested best practices

500+ Enrollment innovations

tested annually

ADVANTAGE OF SCALE

1,700<sup>+</sup> Institutions served

**4 M**<sup>+</sup> Students supported by our SSMS

**○ WE DELIVER RESULTS** 

95% Of with ref

Of our partners continue with us year after year, reflecting the goals we achieve together



### EAB's District Leadership Forum

Comprehensive Support for Superintendents and District Leadership Teams



#### National Best Practice Research

Comprehensive solutions to systemic challenges

Actionable guides pairing academic research with proven best practices



# Tailored On-Demand Research

Quick-turnaround answers to district leader questions

Custom research profiling peer district solutions to pressing challenges



# Diagnostics, Surveys, and Benchmarking

Guided Audits and Survey Templates

Data analysis and personalized reports for individual districts

**Dedicated Implementation Support** 



Consultative Support and Guidance



Executive Roundtables and Workshops



P.D. Tools and Implementation Guides

#### Serving the **Entire Organization**



Control Tower



Rapid Response Teams



Professional Learning Communities



Transformation Team



#### Frameworks to Create Plans and Assess Readiness



Return to Learn Plans



Teacher **Mental Health** 



**Equitable** Multimodal Learning

Distance Learner Experience Mapping

Family Customer

Service for Virtual

Special Education



Reopenina Plan Validation

Consultative

Workshops

**Continuous** 

Learning

Resources



Peer Roundtable Meetinas



Principal & Teacher

Safe Building Reopening

COVID Slide

Learning

Recovery

Personalized

Learning

Screening, Referral & Re-entry

Teacher Burnout

Prevention

Telemental Health Services

Architecture, Curriculum & PD

Student and

Student

Next-Gen IT

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### Upcoming Virtual Roundtables for Superintendents

Mark Your Calendars for Our Return to Learn Working Sessions



Virtual Superintendent Roundtable on "Return to Learn" Planning Special session for superintendents on key school reopening and learning recovery issues



Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:00-5:00 p.m. ET Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00 pm ET

**REGISTER HERE** 

To help maximize scarce summer planning time, **EAB** is holding two-hour virtual roundtable sessions for Superintendents to frame the most important decisions districts face (and the sequence in which they need to be decided), with data and lessons learned (where available) from first-opener countries and states. EAB warmly invites you to join, confident that you will leave with a clearer perspective of Return to Learn issues and a plan for working with EAB as you support your teams charged with refining and executing the plan.



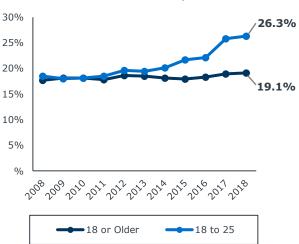
# Critical Steps to Prepare for the Impending Mental Health Surge

Anticipating Unprecedented Demand for Mental Health Care in Schools

Anxiety, Depression, and Suicide Growing in Younger Generations

#### Mental Illness Is a Consistent **Struggle for Many Americans**

Percentage of Adults 18 or Older with Any Mental Illness in the Past Year, 2008-2018



#### Rates of Anxiety, Depression and **Suicide Steadily Rising in Schools**

Increase in **diagnosis of anxiety disorders** in young people<sup>1</sup> in the last 10 years

32%

Of adolescents will meet criteria for an anxiety disorder by the age of 18

Increase in the suicide 177% rate for youth aged 10-14 (0.9 in 2007 to 2.5 in 2017<sup>2</sup>)

Suicide attempts are made on average each day by students in grades 9-123

Aged 6 to 17.

Indicates deaths per 100,000 people

2017 data.

Sources: "2017 Children's Mental Health Report: Anxiety and Depression in Adolescence," Child Mind Institute, Accessed 25 Oct. 2019; "2018 Children's Mental Health Report: Understanding Anxiety in Children and Teens," Child Mind Institute, Accessed 25 Oct. 2019; Ruch, Sheftall, Schlagbaum et al., "Trends in Suicide Among Youth Aged 10 to 19 Years in the United States, 1975 to 2016," JAMA Network, March 2019, jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2733430; "Suicide Statistics," American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Accessed 25 Oct. 2019; "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States 2017," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 2018, www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf; "Mental Health Information: Suicide," National Institute of Mental Health,

©2020 by EAB, All Rights Reserved, eab.com www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/suicide.shtml, Accessed 25 Oct. 2019; EAB interviews and analysis.

### Coronavirus and Response Accelerating Trends



#### Children Are Showing Signs of Stress and Anxiety

 $\begin{array}{c} 36 \% & \text{of children are anxious} \\ \text{about missing schoolwork} \end{array}$ 

of children are worried about contracting COVID-19 themselves

of children are worried about not having enough food following news coverage of panic buying

17% of children are afraid to go outside their house

# The Mental Health Tax of Family Quarantine



In a 2013 study<sup>1</sup>, **post-traumatic stress symptoms were 4x stronger** in adults and children who had been quarantined than in those who were not quarantined.



28% of quarantined parents warranted a diagnosis of "traumarelated mental health disorder" in a recent study of quarantined families in China.

Home Stability at Risk for the Second Time in a Generation

## **Today's Students Were Born Amid Economic Downturn...**

Economic and Societal Hardships Resulting from the Great Recession (2007-2009)



21.3%

Percentage of **food-insecure households with children** in 2009



10.6%

Peak unemployment rate during Great Recession (Jan 2010)



Domestic violence grew in relation to unemployment, resulting in **75% of shelters reporting** an increase in women with children seeking assistance<sup>1</sup>

#### ...and Are Seeing Similar Impacts During COVID-19 Quarantine

Economic and Societal Hardships Emerging During COVID-19



51.6%

Percentage of children without consistent access to free and reduced-price school lunches



45.7 million

New jobless claims across U.S. over the past 13 weeks (as of June 18, 2020)



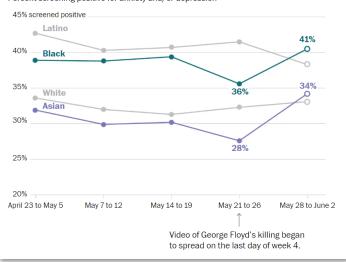
Domestic violence reports in New York State up **30%** April over same period in 2019

Based on national findings from a survey of domestic violence shelters, n=672.

#### Black Americans Face Trauma Beyond Coronavirus and Quarantine

### Anxiety and depression spike for black and Asian Americans after the police killing of George Floyd

Percent screening positive for anxiety and/or depression



Black Americans Show Largest Increase in Mental Health Challenges, 2019-2020

**36** ▶ 41%

Change in rate of black Americans showing clinically significant signs of anxiety or depressive in the week after the video of Floyd's death became public

8 > 30%

Change in rate of black Americans showing depression symptoms, January 2019 – June 2020

# 12

Due to Personal Stress and Compassion Fatigue

#### **Teachers Report High Levels of Stress and Emotional Strain**

**B.C.** (Before COVID)

A.C. (After COVID)

58%

Of teachers described their mental health<sup>1</sup> as "not good" for at least 7 of the last 30 days **78%** 

Of teachers say they feel mentally and physically exhausted at the end of the workday 80%

Of teachers report feeling anxious, worried, exhausted, or depressed since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Working with Students Under Stress Increases Risk of Compassion Fatigue**

Risk Factors of Compassion Fatigue



Female gender



Inexperience in the field



Degree of exposure



Prior trauma exposure



Young age

Including stress, depression, or emotional challenges.

N=5,000 teachers surveyed by Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.
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# EAB Best Practice Guide Preventing Teacher Burnout



#### Implementation Guide Focuses on Systematic Prevention and Alleviation of Stress and Burnout

**Executive Summary** 

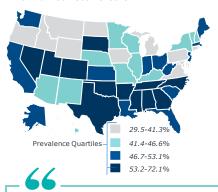
Part One: Support Teacher and Staff Social-Emotional Self-Care

Part Two: Structure Ongoing Teacher and Staff Support Systems

Part Three: Implement Strategies to Reduce Mental Health Stigma Among Staff

#### Mental Health Deserts Leave Many Students Without Local Providers

Prevalence of Children with Mental Health Disorders Who Did Not Receive Care



49.4%

Of US children with a treatable mental health disorder did not receive treatment from a mental health professional

If we don't provide students with these services in school, who will? Our community does not have these resources. As a superintendent in this school district, I have an obligation to help kids be well."

Superintendent, VA

#### Responsibility for Adolescent Mental Health Care Falls on Schools

75%



Of children receiving mental health care received that care in a school setting

## **Convenience and Familiarity Preferable for Students**

21x



Youth are 21 times more likely to visit a school-based health clinic for their mental health care than a community-based clinic

Sources: Whitney DG, Peterson MD. "US National and State-Level Prevalence of Mental Health Disorders and Disparities of Mental Health Care Use in Children," JAMA Pediatrics, Feb 2019, 173(4):389–391. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2018.5399; "Best Practices in School Mental Health," Child Health and Developmental Institute of Connecticut, Issue Brief No. 19, February 20, 2013; "Nationwide, One in Five Youth Suffers from a Diagnosable Emotional, Mental, or Behavioral Disorder," School Based Mental Health Alliance, Accessed 28 Oct. 2019, www.sbh4all.ord/school-health-care/health-and-learning/mel-health/: EAB interviews and analysis.

### Schools Can't Afford to Take a Back Seat

Mental Health Challenges Detrimental to Student Success

#### **Children Who Face Adverse Events Less Focused, Less Connected**

- Children ages 6+ with two or more ACEs¹ are **twice as likely to be disengaged from school**
- 4x Children ages 3 to 5 with two or more ACEs are four times more likely to
- · Have trouble calming themselves down
- Be easily distracted
- Struggle to make and keep friends

#### Mental Health Crises Often Lead to Recurring, Lasting Challenge

5-9%

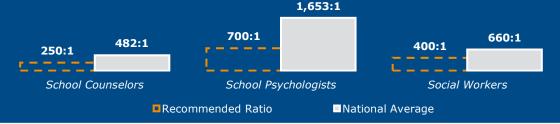
**Of teens require hospitalization** or prolonged absence from school due to mental health issues

50%

Of students with serious mental health issues **drop out of high school** 

Hard for Under-Resourced Districts to Provide Support to Students

#### **Counseling and Social Work Services Perpetually Stretched Thin**



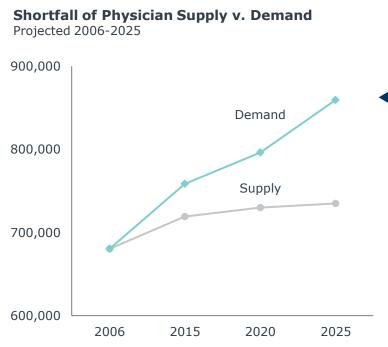
#### **Decrease in Federal Investment in School-Based Mental Health**



Sources: "MASP Recommendations for Comprehensive School Safety Policies," National Association of School Psychologists, Jan. 2013; Fuschillo, A., "The Troubling Student-to-Counselor Ratio that Doesn't Add Up," EdWeek, Aug. 2018; "Mental Health in Middle Level and Hudh Schools," National Association of Secondary School Principals. Accessed 28 Oct. 2019: EAB interviews and analysis.

### Healthcare Experiencing a Similar Story

Our Aging Population Is Forcing Heath Care to Rethink Delivery Models

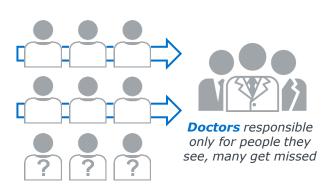




Source: Dill, Michael J., and Edward S. Salsberg. AAMC Center for Workforce Studies, "The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections Through 2025." Last modified November 2008. Accessed March 21, 2013. https://members.aamc.org; Health Care Advisory Board interviews and analysis.

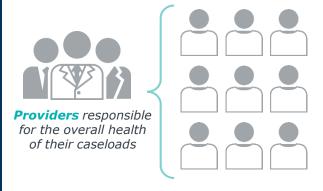
Effective Population Health Management Contingent on Proactive Approach

#### **Passive Model**



Incentivizes throughput, not innovation

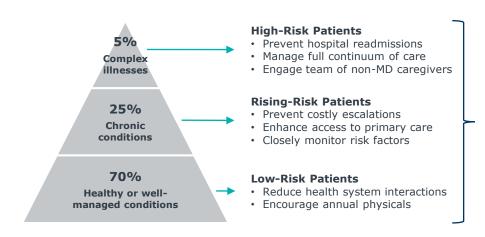
#### **Proactive Model**



Encourages innovation to deliver more care to all

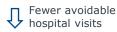
Health Care's Triage Solution to Delivering More Care with Finite Resources

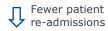
#### **Risk Segmentation Enables Scalable Care**



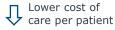
Tiered programs designed to achieve specific objectives

#### **Reported Results**









#### Four Pervasive Barriers Prevent Effective MTSS

#### **Barrier**



Ineffective Transitions
Hamper Care Management



Access to Care Inconsistent and Uncoordinated



Identification of Students Needing Support Happens Too Late



Persistent Stigma Limits Prevention Efforts

#### Consequence

- Students experience repeated crises
- Returning students struggle to reintegrate
- Crisis occurs before care can be accessed
- Students struggle to connect with clinicians
- Counselors overwhelmed by caseloads
- \_- Many past suitability for group interventions
- Students not identified until symptoms occur
- Limited number of self-referrals
- Low engagement in preventative programs







# EAB Best Practice Research Supporting K-12 Behavioral and Mental Health



44 Proven, Innovative, and Replicable Best Practices

### Preparing to Improve Student Wellbeing in Fall 2020

#### **Barrier to Overcome**



Identification of Students Needing Support Happens Too Late



Access to Care Inconsistent and Uncoordinated



Ineffective Transitions
Hamper Care Management



Persistent Stigma Limits
Prevention Efforts

#### **Action Steps for Summer 2020**

- Form Behavioral Health Intervention Teams
- Select universal screener for emotional needs
- Plan for "Adult-Student Relationship Mapping"
- · Train support staff in CBT and group therapy
- Establish telemental health programs

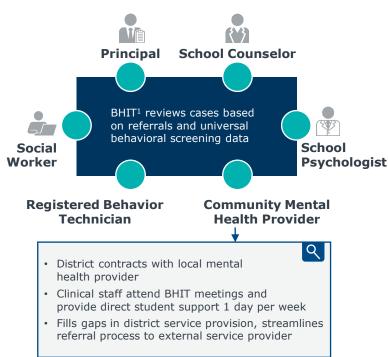
Designate case managers for students in crisis

- Develop P.D. for trauma informed practice
- Plan for PBIS and SEL in multimodal learning
- Launch a year-round family education campaign

### Organizing for Coordinated Mental Health Support

Behavioral Health Intervention Team Leverages Cross-Functional Expertise

#### School-Level Teams Collaborate to Address Behavioral and Emotional Concerns



#### BHIT<sup>1</sup> Meeting Agenda

☐ Discussion of relevant district policy or procedural information (as needed)

#### **Weekly Review**

- New cases (30 Minutes)
- ☐ Ongoing case updates (30 minutes)

#### **Monthly Review**

☐ Implementation, effectiveness of universal supports

### Launching Behavioral Health Intervention Teams

#### To Do:

## **Launch Behavioral Health Intervention Teams**

- Establish a Behavioral Health Intervention
   Team at each school in the district
- Secure the commitment of each principal to sponsor and lead their team
- Create weekly and monthly agenda templates with purpose of team clearly stated
- Set up a central referral inbox and form for referrals in each school
- Define criteria for what does and does not warrant a referral (behavioral and emotional)
- Design training and teacher guide to referrals

# **Objectives for Behavioral Health Intervention Team**

- Use collective knowledge to identify appropriate supports for students and efficiently refer them to services
- Identify and monitor patterns in student needs and behaviors
- Use data to optimize preventative programming and primary care

#### Think "Virtual First"



Designing a **virtual training** not only supports staff in the current environment but can also be rewatched and used as a refresher throughout the coming months

### Missing an Opportunity for Early Identification

Despite Evidence of Effectiveness, Universal Screening Still Not the Norm

#### Why Screen Students for Behavioral and Emotional Issues?

#### **Tested and Validated**



**High average (0.5-0.8)** positive predictive values<sup>1</sup> of most universal screeners

**Very high average (0.92-0.98)** negative predictive values<sup>2</sup> of most universal screeners

#### **Endorsed by Multiple Entities**



- PBIS
- Surgeon General
- SAMHSA<sup>3</sup>

- NASP
- The White House
- American Psychological Association



"The key step in reform is to move school-based psychological services from the back of the service delivery system, in which only students at the highest level of risk receive services, to the front of service delivery through **the use of universal, proactive screening."** 

NASP Position Statement: Mental and Behavioral Health Services, 2015

#### **Adoption of Recommended Practice Slow Across the Country**



- 1) Of those identified at-risk, proportion of correctly identified.
- Of those identified not at-risk, proportion of correctly identified.
   Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- ©2020 by EAB. All Rights Reserved. eab.com

Source: National Association of School Psychologists. (2015). The importance of mental and behavioral health services for children and adolescents (Position statement). Bethesda, MD. https://www.nasponline.org/x26827.xml; Bruhn, Allison L. et. Al., "A Preliminary Investigation of Emotional and Behavioral Screening Practices in K-12 Schools," Education and Treatment of Children, 37 (4), pp. 611-634, 2014, <a href="https://eric.ed.gov/?id=E11070185">https://eric.ed.gov/?id=E11070185</a>; Jenkins, L. et. al., "A Critical Review of Five Commonity Used Social-Emotional and Behavioral Screeners for Elementary or Secondary Schools," Contemporary School Schools (Psychology 1849), 2014, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nc/id-10.1016/j.psychology.nc/id-10.1016/j.nc/id-10.1016/j.psychology.nc/id-10.101

### Screening Foundational to Multi-Tiered Support

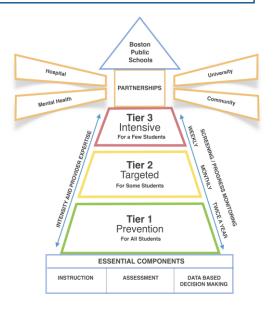
Boston's CBHM1 Aims to Provide Relevant Support to Every Student

# **Comprehensive Behavioral Health Model Overview**

#### **Profiled Institution:**

Boston Public Schools, Boston, MA





#### Key Model "Non-Negotiables" for Participating Schools



Strong leadership and accountability at district level, including data monitoring and resource support



Universal screening to provide schools with actionable data and a way to track progress



PBIS¹ implementation in all CBHM schools



Implementation of social-emotional learning curriculum as a universal support instructs all students on critical social skills



School psychologists at each building designated as point people to support CBHM implementation

### Establishing a Reliable Procedure Critical to Success

Proliferation of Tools Makes Universal Screening Accessible to Any District

#### Basic Considerations for Adopting Universal Screening



Choose an evidencebased tool in consultation with mental health staff



#### **Characteristics to Consider:**

- Cost
- Time to administer
- Complexity
- · What it measures



Secure parental consent via opt-in/out



**Train teachers** on properly using selected tool



**Screen several times a year** for continuous identification

# **Multiple Reliable Instruments Available**

	Tool	Advantages	Disadvantages				
	BIMAS	Progress monitoring; identifies positive skills; electronic scoring	Only available in English; no student self- report option until age 12				
	BASC-3 BESS	Very high validity and reliability; excellent online tools; multiple raters	Fairly complex to administer; expensive				
	SAEBRS						
	SDQ	EAB Expert Insight  Universal Screening is Proven Effective. Here's Why You Should Implement it Now					
	SSBD						
	SRSS						
	SSIS- PSG						
	EBS	Should IIIpie	ament it Now				

Source: Pierce, Corey D., et. al., "Applied Examples of Screening Students At Risk of Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities," Intervention in School and Clinic 2016, 52(1), pp.6–11.,

### Preparing for Universal Mental Health Screening

#### To DO:

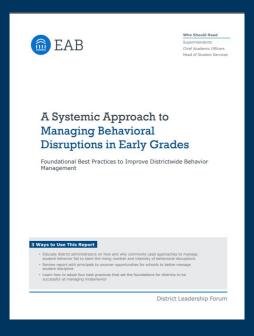
# Prepare for Universal Mental Health Screening

- Convene a team of district support staff to establish why a screener is needed and input on selection
- Decide which screener best fits your district priorities
- Educate parents and teachers on benefits of screener (Identify needs, not threats)
- Train teachers on use of screener
- Adopt Boston Public Schools' timeline for use of screener across the district

# BOSTON Universal Screening Public Schools Timeline

- 1 Train staff on using BIMAS
- Secure parental consent
- 3 Conduct 1st screening at least 6 weeks into the school year
- 4 Share results with all levels (district, school, grade)
- Gather school- and gradelevel teams to discuss data and target interventions
- 6 Track progress and adapt interventions every 6 weeks
- Conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> screening in spring
- 8 Repeat steps 4-6

# EAB Best Practice Research Embrace Early Intervention with Universal Screening

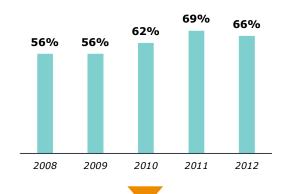


In-Depth Research Report Focuses on High-Impact, Systemic Reforms

Part One details how districts can identify students in need and direct resources to support them before serious issues arise. This is best achieved via universal screening for behavioral and emotional issues.

## Graduation Rate Trends Lead Washoe County to Rethink Student Support

Washoe County Public Schools Graduation Rates, 2008-2012



#### Why Focus on Relationships?

Controlling for all background characteristics, children with a caring adult outside of the home are:

10% more likely to show interest in learning

more likely to **stay calm, controlled** when faced with a challenge

21% less likely to have bullied in the past month

28% less likely to feel sad or depressed

#### **Profiled Institution:**

Washoe County School District, NV



"Two big reasons students leave school are that they have no meaningful connection to an adult in the building, and no one knows their name or how to pronounce it. This SEL work isn't just feelgood: we know through research that relationships and connections keep kids in school."

Administrator, Washoe County Public Schools

#### Relationship Mapping Highlights Student Risk and Gaps in Positive Adult Support

Use these prompts to guide staff reflection on the quality and depth of their relationship with each student

Staff should indicate they are a "trusted adult" for a student if they have positively bonded with the student and believe he/she would come to them with a personal problem or concern

Student Name	Name/ Face	Academic Standing	Regular Positive Feedback	2 Non- Academic Facts	Family Story	Trusted Adult	At Risk
	√ √ √	√ √ √	<b>✓ ✓ ✓</b>	<b>√</b> √	<b>√</b> ✓		
Sally B.	✓ ✓ ✓		✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	• • •	
•	<b>√ √ √</b>	✓	√		√ √		
Jenny D.							• • •
•	✓ ✓	✓		✓			
Danny S.	✓ ✓						•
•	<b>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</b>	✓ ✓	<b>√ √ √</b>	✓ ✓	√ √ √	• •	
Pete T.	<b>/ / / /</b>			✓ ✓	✓ ✓		• • • •
	✓ ✓	✓		✓	✓ ✓		• •
Maria W.							

**Staff should also indicate any student who is at risk** academically, personally, and/or socially (e.g., homelessness, family instability, peer rejection, withdrawn, anger issues)

#### Formal and Informal Strategies Help **Staff Build Relationships with Students**

Formal

Informal



**Develop a mentorship plan** for students who do not have at least one trusted adult in school

 Focus these resources (i.e., time, personnel) on students with highest risk and lowest positive connection to adults in school



Record the adult(s) each child has bonded with to engage if that child is struggling behaviorally, emotionally, or academically



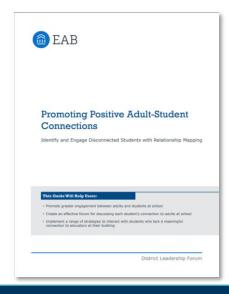


Leverage existing classroom routines

to deepen relationships with students

- · Welcome routines, morning circles
- Instructional content or activities

#### EAB's Step-by-Step Implementation Toolkit



**EAB Expert Insight** Remote Relationship Mapping



### Preparing to Improve Student Wellbeing in Fall 2020

#### **Barrier to Overcome**



Identification of Students Needing
Support Happens Too Late



Access to Care Inconsistent and Uncoordinated



Ineffective Transitions
Hamper Care Management



Persistent Stigma Limits Prevention Efforts

#### **Action Steps for Summer 2020**

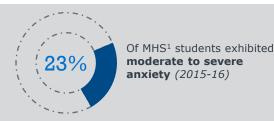
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District Looks to Scale Support for Commonly Presenting Issues

Significant Portion of Methuen High School Students Have Anxiety, Depression





Of MHS¹ students exhibited moderate to severe depression (2015-16)

### **But District Over-Relied** on Tier III Services...

- Students frequently jump straight from tier I to tier III interventions
- Limited clinical capacity leaves students unserved



# ...While Tier II Services Were Lacking and Inefficient

- Groups mostly targeted toward elementary schools
- Adolescent interventions not therapeutic or evidence-based
- Students permitted to drop in and out throughout the year

**Profiled Institution:** 

Methuen Public Schools, MA



### Understanding Staff Needs an Important First Step

Assess Buy-In, Readiness for Group Therapy Implementation

Research and experience show that the number one reason why students don't 'do' group therapy is because staff don't believe in it."

Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, North Carolina

# **Needs Assessment Solicits Feedback from Mental Health Staff and Surfaces Needed Supports**

#### Methuen Public Schools' Evidence-Based Practice Needs Assessment

- What evidence-based therapeutic groups are you currently implementing?
- 2 How do you rate your readiness to provide services needed to address the range of problems faced by our students?
- What do you see as the critical areas of professional development that you need in order to deliver these services?

### **Key Areas to Consider for Assessment and Staff Feedback**



The evidence-based therapeutic groups in place, and how they align to the most common presenting needs of students



Perceptions of the efficacy of group therapy among mental health staff



How prepared mental health staff feel to implement groups with fidelity



The main barriers staff encounter in attempting to deliver therapeutic groups to students (e.g., time, logistics)

Training, Structural Support, and Partnerships Enable Mental Health Staff to **Implement Group Therapy Effectively and Efficiently** 

#### **Professional Development**







University **Partnerships** 

In-service Days

#### Leveraged to provide training to all mental health staff in:

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- · Suicide Risk Assessment
- · Treatment Planning
- Using Psychosocial and Educational Data to Monitor Interventions
- Implementing PBIS Tiers I and II



#### **Increased Capacity**



Structural Efficiencies

Reassigned counselors across schools to decrease student transitions between mental health staff

Reduced administrative duties unrelated to the role (e.g., testing coordination)



# Community Partnerships

Created formal agreements with community-based mental health agencies

- · Increased mental health staff available to students by 15%
- Targeted scheduling and referrals around days, times community providers had excess capacity

#### To Do:

## Launch Evidence-Based Group Therapeutics

- Survey student support staff to assess:
  - Perceptions of group therapy
  - Current practice
  - Training needs
- Partner with local higher ed institutions to secure in-service training on evidence-based therapeutic practices in a group setting
- Assess probable demand for mental health support at each school in the district
- Re-allocate trained staff across schools in alignment with projected demand

## Key Characteristics to Consider When Predicting Demand

- School size
- %FRPI 1
- Absenteeism rate
- Substance use
- % of students reporting:
  - Depression
  - Suicidal ideation
  - Frequent or extreme anxiety
  - Being a victim of bullying



### Telemental Health an Effective Way to Support Students

### Results Show Teletherapy's Importance to Districts' Overall Care Strategy



Students have expressed how much they have enjoyed teletherapy: being able to go into a room without their parents bugging them, or not having to go at an inconvenient time of the day or take time away from being with their friends.

I haven't had anyone say they didn't want teletherapy or start teletherapy and then change to in-person."

Andrea Ambroson,
Director of Special Services & Student Services, Smithville SD, MO



### Study In Brief:

Telemental Health for Children and Adolescents (2015)

- Systematic review examining the evidence base on telemental health on children and adolescents across settings
- Finds that care is effective, alongside early evidence that outcomes are comparable to in-person delivery
- Concludes that "Child and adolescent telepsychiatry is a feasible, acceptable and sustainable approach to address the gap in access to services for underserved populations."



### **Clear Benefits to Any School District**

"...Advantages of school telemental health (TMH) include greater efficiency, the capacity for higher volume, and increased access to care for many students who would be unlikely to reach traditional community mental healthcare because of barriers such as transportation and healthcare coverage."

Stephan et al., Telemental Health in Schools, Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology, 2016

"Good Faith" Adoption of Tech Solutions Receives Green Light for COVID-19

### OCR Relaxes HIPAA Compliance to Enable Access to Care

March 17, 2020

"OCR is exercising its enforcement discretion to not impose penalties for noncompliance with the HIPAA Rules in connection with the good faith provision of telehealth using such non-public facing audio or video communication products during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency."

### **HIPAA Compliant Platforms**

Doxv

Zoom for Healthcare

**Thera-LINK** 

### Three Options for Virtual Mental Health Support in Schools

1

Continuing Service for School Counselors and Psychologists

2

Contracted Teletherapy Through Local/National Service Providers

3

A.I.-Powered Chat-Bots for Rapidly Scalable Support

For more information on HIPAA compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic, reach out to the HIPAA Journal's hotline at (800) 231-4096 for answers to your questions

Teletherapy Brings Convenience and Ability to Adapt to Student Needs

## Structured Environment Ensures Both Student Privacy and Flexible Response to Crises When Necessary

Dedicated, tech-equipped room allows for secure, confidential conversation between patient and therapist

Student can choose whether they like teletherapy or would like to switch to in-person care



Staff member can see inside room and intervene or call crisis team if necessary

In a virtual schooling environment, identify a **Patient Support Person**, such as a trusted family member or a school administrator, who will answer the phone when called for immediate assistance.

### Added Convenience Brings Benefits Across the Board



#### Students

Requires less effort to attend and students do not have to miss instruction



#### **Parents**

Parents do not have to take time off work or worry about whether child is attending sessions



### **School Administrators**

Have instant feedback from students and therapist and incur fewer travel costs



#### Clinician

Can reimburse at same rate as in-person therapy but can see more patients due to reduced logistical barriers Two Main Types of Remote Care Delivery Improve Student Options

### **Variations of Telemental Health Support Provide Different Additional Benefits**



# Expanding Virtual Access to Clinical Providers

- Increases availability and choice of providers
- Speeds up care delivery
- Significantly reduces logistical barriers
- May include upfront technology costs (e.g. 1:1)
- Students may be reluctant to use



### Using AI-Powered Mental Health Support

- · Eliminates logistical barriers
- Provides instant 24/7 support
- · Reduces stigma fears
- Provides comprehensive, tiered access to services:
  - Ongoing well-being and stress management
  - AI-led evidence-based clinical treatment
  - Direct connection to humans depending on need



### To Do:

### **Implement District-Wide Telemental Health Supports**

- Consult your existing behavioral health partner(s) about the option to integrate telemental health services.
- If existing providers are not able to support, identify a provider licensed to provide care in your state
- Communicate availability of telemental healthcare to families and students, along with requirements
- Establish stockpile of appropriate technology for students without access to personal wi-fi and devices
- Develop procedures for school-supported telemental health care, including designation of Patient Support Person for each case

### A.I. Powered Mental Health Support





CBT-Trained Chathot









**CBT-Trained Chathot** 

Chat-bot and life coach

Chat-bot and life coach

Free for all K-12 teachers and administrators



### Preparing to Improve Student Wellbeing in Fall 2020

#### **Barrier to Overcome**



Identification of Students Needing Support Happens Too Late



Access to Care Inconsistent and Uncoordinated



Ineffective Transitions
Hamper Care Management



Persistent Stigma Limits
Prevention Efforts

### **Action Steps for Summer 2020**

- · Form Behavioral Health Intervention Teams
- Select universal screener for emotional needs
- Plan for "Adult-Student Relationship Mapping"
- Train support staff in CBT and group therapy
- Establish telemental health programs

Designate case managers for students in crisis

- Develop P.D. for trauma informed practice
- Plan for PBIS and SEL in multimodal learning
- Launch a year-round family education campaign

"Refer and Hope" Approach Leaves Students Without Needed Care

### **Students and Families Face Multiple Challenges Connecting With Providers**

50+%

Of children with a mental health disorder **do not** receive treatment

7.5 Weeks

**Average wait time** to see a child and adolescent psychiatrist

42%

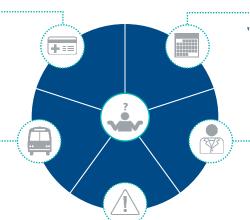
Of students **did not connect to an off-campus provider** when referred by their university's counseling center

#### **Finances**

"Will my insurance cover appointments with a mental health therapist?"

### Transportation

"I don't have a car...how will I get my child to counseling appointments?"



Scheduling

"I work late nights, when will I have time to take my child to therapy?"

### Finding a Provider

"I don't even know where to look for a provider who does what I need."

### **Mistrust, Unfamiliarity**

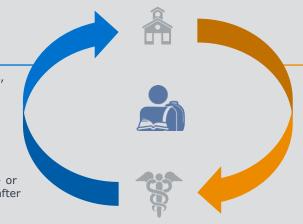
Sources: "Addressing Children's Mental Health Workforce Shortage," American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2018; Whitney DG, Peterson MD. "US National and State-Level Prevalence of Mental Health Disorders and Disparities of Mental Health Care Use in Children," JAMA Pediatrics, Feb 2019, 173(4):389–391. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2018.5399; Owen J et al, "University Counseling Center Off-Campus Referrals, An Exploratory Investigation." Journal of College Student Psychotherapy. 22. no. 2 (2007): 13-29: EAB interviews and analysis.

Handholding Through Referral and Reentry Prevents Crisis Repetition

### Student Crisis Care Coordinator

### Facilitate Reentry Process

- Coordinate with teachers, family, and clinicians to ensure smooth transition
- Support student after discharge (~2 weeks), remains in contact afterwards if needed
- Refer students to school- or hospital-based services after discharge as necessary



## **Coordinate Referral Process**

- Connect student with appropriate provider
- Manage paperwork, data release, and transportation
- Track student satisfaction rates with clinical providers



20-30%

Of youth **require rehospitalization** in the year following hospital stay for a mental health issue

2.5x



Students who go through the program are 2.5x more likely to connect with an off-campus provider than students who do not

#### To-Do:

### **Crisis Coordinator Check-List**

- Identify a crisis coordinator in your district
  - Does not need to be a clinical professional
- Compile the following:
  - A database of local providers
  - Transportation maps
  - Protocols for submitting insurance claims across providers
- ☐ Establish protocols for how students missing school due to mental health crises will transition back to the classroom

### Quick Coordination Wins to Support Students in Crisis



#### **Standardize Intake Forms**

Ensure referral sheet mirrors community partner's own intake form to reduce triage and speed up student admission



### **Speed Up Information Release**

Ensure HIPAA and FERPA release forms are always given to parents at both district and community partner to speed up information exchange

### EAB Executive Brief

# Are Districts the Nation's Adolescent Mental Health Care Providers?



EAB's latest research on supporting students in crisis

Practice guides include:

- 1. Ongoing Peer-to-Peer Student Engagement and Mentoring
- 2. First Responder "Handle With Care" Notifications
- 3. Tech-Enabled Mental Health Support
- 4. Coordinated Reentry Process

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Research Shows Toxic Stress Can Hinder Children's Cognitive and Social-Emotional Development



Children exposed to chronic poverty-related stressors experience **reduced gray matter volumes** in the frontal and temporal cortex and the hippocampus<sup>1</sup>

3-4%

Below developmental norms for families at 150% of poverty line

8-9%

Below developmental norms for families at 100% of poverty line

"Adjusting for potential confounders [...] experiencing ACEs is associated with belowaverage language and literacy skills, math skills, **attention problems, social problems, and aggression.** [...] With few exceptions, increased ACEs were associated with increased odds of below-average academic skills and behavior problems."

> Jimenez et. al., "Adverse Experiences in Early Childhood," 2016

Parts of the brain responsible for planning complex cognitive behavior, personality expression, decision making, moderating social behavior, emotional association, among other functions.

### Knowledge Important First Step in Changing Teacher Mindset and Approach

**Study in Brief:** "Impact of Trauma-Informed Care Professional Development on [...] Knowledge, Dispositions, and Behaviors Toward Traumatized Students"



Large, urban school district



**552 participants**, classified and certified staff



**3.5 hour** trauma-informed care (TIC) professional development



**Pre-post test,** 52 item *Trauma-Informed Care Dispositions Survey* 

Found that TIC<sup>1</sup> professional development resulted in a **statistically significant change in:** 

- · Overall knowledge of TIC
- · Self-ratings on 21 of 26 disposition subscales
- · Self-ratings on 9 of 10 behavior subscales

## 2x

Teachers lacking an empathetic mindset are twice as likely to suspend students over the course of the school year<sup>2</sup>

### **Sample Disposition Measures**

"I feel empathy for students when they are having problems"

"I try to look at student's side of a disagreement before making a decision"

"I give students opportunities to make choices and decisions"

"I believe it is important to learn about students and their community"

### Sample Behavior Measures

"I utilize strategies with the intent to create a safe environment for students"

"I use active listening strategies when interacting with students"

"I give students positive reinforcement for good behavior"

### Providing a Trauma-Informed Point of View

Growing Number of Frameworks Exist to Create Trauma-Informed Schools

### **Popular Trauma-Informed Care Frameworks Share Four Main Components**

- The Flexible Framework,
   Helping Traumatized Children Learn
   (Massachusetts Advocates for Children)
- Compassionate Schools Initiative (Washington State OSPI<sup>1</sup>)
- The Sanctuary Model (By Dr. Sandra L. Bloom)
- Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators
   (National Child Traumatic Stress Network)
- Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative (Missouri DESE<sup>2</sup>)



**Schoolwide focus** to address broad impact of toxic stress rather than providing treatment only to those experiencing acute trauma symptoms



**Dedication to a safe school environment** (e.g., physical safety, psychological safety, orderly and welcoming learning environment)



**Building student skills** (e.g., resilience, coping, relationship building)



**Building staff capacity** to support students experiencing toxic stress, trauma (e.g., instructional strategies, effective discipline, strategies to prevent burnout)

### **Despite Interest, Districts Take Fragmented Approach to Trauma-Informed Care**



Efforts exclusively at school, individual level (e.g., book reads, conferences)



District-developed training available, but optional for interested staff

### Rapid Roll-Out Has Noticeable Impact



### Nearly All Staff Trained in One Year, Exclusively Leveraging Existing PD Time

Multiple Delivery Models Provide Schools With Flexibility to Integrate TIC Training With Other PD Needs

### 15 of 19

School buildings fully trained by fall 2018 as well as all transportation staff



### Model 1

- Use 1 full day of districtcontrolled PD time
- Approach used to train all middle schools at the same time

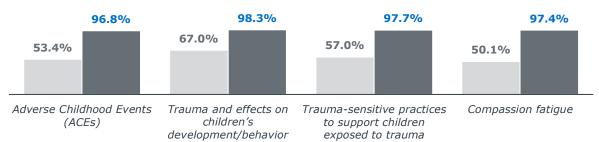
### Model 2

- Use 1 half-day (~3 hours) of district or building PD time
- Use 2 additional hours at next school faculty meetings to finish training

### Training Leads to Significant Gains in Knowledge on Key Trauma-Related Topics

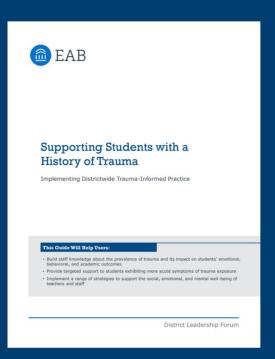
"My knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ is"; % of "very good/excellent" responses1

■ Before Training ■ After Training



### EAB Implementation Toolkit

### **Establishing Trauma-Informed Practices**



### **Detailed Guidance For:**

- Building and sustaining expertise in trauma informed care among teachers and staff
- Selecting evidence-based interventions for students with a history of trauma
- 3. Protecting teachers from secondary traumatic stress and burnout

### Impact of Successful PBIS Implementation Felt Across the Board

## Significant Decline in Suspensions...

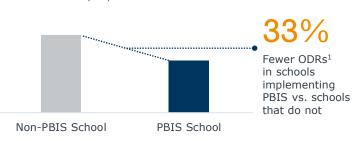


Reduction of suspensions in elementary schools, post- vs. pre-implementation of PBIS  $(n=31\ schools)$ 

### ...And in Number of Overall Discipline Referrals

#### **Incidence of Office Discipline Referrals**

n= 37 schools, 12,344 students



"

### **PBIS Demonstrates Positive Effects on a Number of Important Indicators**

"Successful implementation results in **significant reductions in office discipline referrals and suspensions as well as other problem behaviors, such as emotional dysregulation, concentration problems, bullying, and peer rejection.** PBIS can also foster improvements in students' prosocial behaviors and academic achievement, in teacher self-efficacy, and in students' perception of a positive school climate."

The Role of Positive Interventions and Supports, NASP Position Paper (2015)

### Behavior Matrices Build Predictability, Encourage Fidelity

We Are	Entering Class	Whole Group Instruction	One-on-One Instruction	Small Groups		
Safe	Choose a distraction-free space	Ask in chat for help	Work near an adult	Encourage others to participate		
	Keep hands to yourself	Keep hands out of desk	Use kind words	Use "stop- leave-talk"		
Respectful	Video on at all times	Answer polls promptly	Answer out loud on cue	One speaker at a time		
	Kind words and faces	Quietly raise your hand	Turn toward the teacher	Use eye contact		
Responsible	Be on time	Avoid multi- tasking	Pause for questions	Use "Ask for Help" button		
	Have materials ready	Ask a question	Try your best	Raise your hand for help		

## Essential Questions for Fall 2020

Are expectations consistent during both face-to-face and virtual instruction?

Are staff repeatedly teaching students how to adhere to these expectations?

Are students being recognized and rewarded for meeting these goals?

### Hallmarks of PBIS

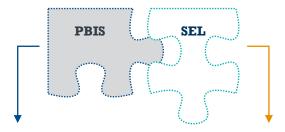
Universal Expectations Explicit Behavioral Instruction

Rewarding Positive Behavior

### Key Insights for Successful SEL Implementation

### Number, Variety of Curricula Obscure Factors That Lead to Desired Outcomes

### Reinforce SEL Curriculum as a Non-Negotiable, Universal Support Districtwide



**Sets up school environment** to be structured, predictable, and to correct problem behavior in a non-punitive way

Supports long-term student growth in social and emotional skills, competency

### **Consider Trade-Offs of Curriculum Selection**



**One districtwide curriculum** streamlines resource allocation (e.g., purchasing, training)



**Providing schools leeway** to choose a program can increase buy-in and relevancy to school context, student needs

## **Focus Curriculum Selection on Critical Components**



- □ **Evidence base** of curriculum (e.g., 25 CASEL SELect programs¹)
- ☐ **Full range of grade levels**covered to ensure scaffolding,

  continuity of skill development
- □ **Skills** of focus (e.g., emotion knowledge and expression, behavior regulation, attention control, inhibitory control)
- ☐ **Time** commitment (i.e., daily, weekly)
- ☐ **Implementation** supports (e.g., training resources, fidelity checks, tools to assess outcomes)

Programs nominated by CASEL for (1) systematically teaching social/emotional skills, providing opportunities for practice, offering multi-year programming; (2) offering high-quality training/implementation support; (3) evidence-base with at least one evaluation showing positive impact on student behavior and/or academic performance

## Study in Brief: "Navigating SEL From the Inside Out"



**2017 study** by the Wallace Foundation and Harvard GSE



**Analyzes 25 leading** SEL and character education programs



Provides detailed, direct comparison of:

- · Relative skill focus
- · Instructional methods
- Implementation supports

Major social-emotional skills and behaviors can be **grouped into three primary categories**: (1) cognitive regulation, (2) emotional processes, and (3) social/interpersonal skills

										_			
Program	Cognitive Regulation	Attention Control	Working Memory/ Planning	Inhibitory Control	Cognitive Flexibility	Emotional Processes	Emotion Knowledge/ Expression	Emotion / Behavior Regulation	Empathy/ Perspective- taking	Interpersonal Skills	Understands Social Cues	Conflict Resolution	Prosocia Behavio
4Rs	12%	9%	4%	1%	2%	27%	16%	10%	11%	43%	4%	19%	26%
Before the Bullying A.F.T.E.R. School Program	4%▼	1%	1%	1%	0%	39%	16%	2%	27%▲	55%	1%	6%	52%
Caring School Community	8%▼	5%	1%	0%	3%	33%	15%	0%▼	28%▲	78%▲	1%	18%	71%4
Conscious Discipline	14%	4%	7%	2%	2%	75%▲	47%▲	49%▲	6%	54%	15%	11%	37%
Character First	29%	8%	15%	9%	1%	11%▼	3%▼	3%	6%	38%	0%	6%	37%
Competent Kids, Caring Communities	30%	8%	19%	5%	8%	28%	22%	17%	6%	23%▼	2%	11%	18%
Good Behavior Game	33%	0%	33%▲	0%	0%	0%▼	0%▼	0%▼	0%▼	100%▲	0%	0%▼	100%
Girls on the Run	7%▼	0%	7%	0%	0%	11%▼	7%▼	4%	3%	35%▼	0%	11%	31%
I Can Problem Solve	65%▲	11%	10%	7%	47%▲	65%▲	57%▲	2%	46%▲	55%	19%▲	37%▲	20%1
Lions Quest	18%	1%	14%	1%	3%	23%	19%	4%	5%	60%	6%	12%	51%
MindUP	44%▲	41%▲	3%	4%	2%	28%	20%	7%	11%	18%▼	4%	0%▼	15%
Mutt-i-grees	10%▼	1%	3%	4%	6%	45%	28%	11%	24%	56%	23%▲	3%	40%
Open Circle	20%	3%	10%	0%	11%	38%	28%	18%	10%	65%▲	14%	18%	44%
PATHS	30%	6%	16%	0%	12%	75%▲	61%▲	41%▲	24%	59%	15%	25%▲	37%
Playworks	37%	31%▲	11%	5%	0%	1%▼	1%▼	0%▼	0%▼	49%	0%	0%▼	49%

Programs with the **highest relative focus on emotional processes¹** include RULER, PATHS, Conscious Discipline, and I Can Problem Solve

1) Encompasses (1) emotion knowledge and expression, (2) emotion and behavior regulation, and (3) empathy and perspective taking ©2020 by EAB. All Rights Reserved.eab.com

Source: Sources: Jones, S. Brush, K. Bailey, R. Brion-Meisels, G. McIntyre, J. Kahn, J. Nelson, B. Stickle, L., "Navigating SEL From the Inside Out," Harvard Graduate School of Education and The Wallace Foundation, 2017; EAB interviews and analysis.

#### To Do:

## Establish Preventative Practices in Multimodal Learning

- Develop multi-modal behavior matrices for district-wide use
- Plan 1-hr PD session to discuss why consistent expectations and responses are essential for student mental health
- Consult Wallace
   Foundation/Harvard report to inform SEL curriculum selection based on screener data

## Why Teachers Must Focus on Consistency in Multi-Modal Learning

- Parental inconsistency has a significant impact on child development and mental health
- Students often move between classrooms with different expectations and responses to behavior
- Switching between face-to-face and remote learning adds yet more disruption
- Creating predictable routines, expectations, and responses to behaviors can significantly reduce anxiety and stress

### Reducing Stigma Through Family Education

Family Education Normalizes Mental Health Challenges, Equips Parents



### **Family Wellness Workshop Series**



How to Help Children Cope with Anxiety Screening of the Documentary "Angst"



Suicide Awareness Question Persuade Refer (QPR) Training



How to Navigate Screen Time, Social Media



Cyberbullying and Digital Citizenship



Latest Trends in Youth Substance Use A Focus on Vaping



Improving Sleep and Wellness



Mindfulness



Supporting LGBTQ Youth



Transitioning to Middle School



Parenting with Love and Logic<sup>1</sup>

### **Survey Driven Programs Align** with Needs of Families



Session on anxiety remains the most popular and well-attended event among families



Expert speakers, time for Q&A, and take-home resources maximize relevance and value



Sessions limited to 1.5 hours, held later in the evening and out in the community at schools to allow families to care for children before attending

Families attended wellness workshops in the 2018-19 school year

Elk Grove Unified School District, CA TO GOOD



<sup>1)</sup> Love and Logic is an organization that provides resources for positive parenting and teaching techniques to build healthy relationships with kids.

### Building a Responsive Family Education Series



#### To Do:

## Design Preventative Programming in Multimodal Learning

- Survey parents and teachers on topics for mental/behavioral health programming
- Develop list of presentations and workshops based on community requests
- Establish a predictable calendar of virtual events at times conducive to parent attendance
- Market family education series and events through multiple channels
- Build post-event online feedback forms to refine programming over time

## Elk Grove Unified School District Takes a Multi-Modal Approach to Advertising



#### **Centralized Online Efforts**

Eventbrite" invitation created so parents can sign up online

- Series posted on Facebook and district, school websites
- Communications department promotes series in monthly newsletter



### **Personalized Communication**

School principals and counselors:

- Promote the series when talking or meeting with families
- Conduct targeted phone calls, texts, e-mails inviting families

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Persistent Stigma Limits Prevention Efforts

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### Rapid Response Planning Timeline: Summer 2020

### Recommended Sequence of Major Summer Planning Tasks



June 2020



July 2020



August 2020

### Immediate Next Steps

- Download EAB Toolkits
- Develop plan for Trauma Informed P.D.
- Contact existing providers to discuss telemental health services
- Survey counselors and school psychologists on use of CBT, group therapy

### Major Initiatives

- · Establish BHITs
- Select screener for emotional and behavioral needs
- Identify case managers for students in crisis
- Establish higher ed partnerships for counselor/psychologist P.D.
- Survey families on needs for family education series

## Finishing Preparations

- Establish telemental health partnerships and capabilities
- Develop initial family education events
- Develop consistent expectations for multimodal behavior management
- Communicate plan for Relationship Mapping with teachers and staff

### How EAB Can Help K12 Partners Right Away

#### Step 1



#### Schedule a Diagnostic Call

- Preparation for behavioral and mental health support
- · Safely reopening schools
- Learning recovery and maintaining academic progress through COVID-19

#### Step 2



### Register for EAB's July 9th Planning Intensive

- Deeper dive on essential practices
- Breakout groups focused on partner needs
- Interactive discussion and collaborative problem solving for planning teams

#### Step 3



### Submit Plan Reviews to EAB Research

- EAB is comparing plans with regional and national peers
- Researchers provide opportunities for improvement where possible
- Researchers validate plans for district response teams

### eab.com/k12covid19response



Interested in talking to an EAB expert about your COVID-19 challenges?

Complete the exit survey

### How Can EAB Support Your District's Planning Efforts?

What do you want to know about what other districts are doing to prepare for the next school year?



Please leave answers in the Chat feature

### **Today's Facilitators**



Ben Court
Associate Director, Research



Pete Talbot Managing Director, Research