



# Well Beyond Medicine: Implementing School-Based Behavioral Health Programs

## *Pre-Read for Convening Attendees*

On May 9, 2023, Nemours Children's Health will host a virtual convening, *Well Beyond Medicine: Implementing School-Based Behavioral Health Programs*. Invitees include national pediatric and behavioral health organizations, content experts, federal agency officials, grantees of federal programs, representatives of state and local agencies, philanthropic organizations, and other stakeholders. The goal is to provide policymakers with specific recommendations related to the implementation of various school-based behavioral health (SBBH) provisions included in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA, [P.L. 117-159](#)) and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, [P.L. 117-328](#)).

This document provides an overview of a subset of the provisions the convening will highlight. Among those, the convening will address the implementation of the guidance, technical assistance center, and grants outlined directly below.

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

The BSCA included [three major provisions](#) related to Medicaid financing of SBBH services. The law directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to:

- In consultation with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), issue guidance to support the delivery of services to students covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in school-based settings.
- In consultation with the Secretary of ED, establish a technical assistance center for the purposes of:
  - Expanding the capacity of state Medicaid agencies, local education agencies (LEAs), and school-based entities to provide assistance under Medicaid;
  - Reducing administrative burden and supporting these entities in receiving reimbursement for Medicaid-covered services;
  - Ensuring ongoing collaboration between HHS and ED; and
  - Providing information to state education agencies (SEAs) and LEAs on how to utilize funding.
  - The language also requires the Secretary of HHS to ensure that the TA center includes resources specifically designed to support small and rural schools and issue biennial reports on the TA centers work while also providing \$8 million in funding for the center.
- Issue \$50 million in grants to states to implement, enhance, or expand the provision of assistance for school-based entities under Medicaid and CHIP.

## **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**

- [Project AWARE](#) (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) – The BSCA included \$240 million divided in equal amounts for each of FY22-25 and the CAA included \$140 million in FY23 for this program, which builds or expands the capacity of SEAs, in partnership with State Mental Health Agencies overseeing school-aged youth. By building or expanding capacity, the program advances wellness and resiliency in education by increasing mental health awareness in schools across states, territories, and tribal communities.
- [Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma](#) (ReCAST), within Project AWARE, assists high-risk youth and families and promotes resilience and equity in communities that have recently faced civil unrest through implementation of evidence-based violence prevention, and community youth engagement programs, as well as linkages to trauma-informed behavioral health services.
- [Mental Health Awareness Training](#) (MHAT) – The BSCA included \$120 million divided in equal amounts for each of FY22-25 and the CAA included nearly \$25 million in FY23 for this program, which prepares and trains individuals to appropriately and safely respond to persons with mental health challenges and or disorders, particularly those with serious mental illness and/or serious emotional disturbances.

## **Health Resources and Services Administration**

- [Pediatric Mental Health Care Access](#) (PMHCA) – The BSCA included \$80 million divided in equal amounts for each of FY22-26 and the CAA included \$13 million in FY23 for this program, which promotes the integration of behavioral health into pediatric primary care through tele-consultation, training, and other support. Importantly, the BSCA funding allows the program to expand to schools and other settings.
- [School-Based Service Expansion](#) (SBSE) – The CAA included \$55 million in FY23 for this program, which supports access to primary health services, including mental health services, through Health Center Program award recipients' service delivery sites located at schools. Previously, SBSE funding was called School-Based Service Sites (SBSS) funding.

## **U.S. Department of Education**

- [Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program](#) – The BSCA included \$1 billion available through FY2025, and the CAA included \$1.3 billion in FY23 for this program, which seeks to improve student's academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, LEAs, schools and local communities to: (1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education; (2) improve school conditions for student learning; and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy for all students.
- [School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program](#) – The BSCA included \$500 million divided in equal amounts for each of FY22-26 for this program, which provides competitive grants to SEAs, LEAs, and consortia of LEAs to increase the number of credentialed mental health services providers providing school-based mental health services to students in LEAs with demonstrated need.
- [Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grant Program](#) – The BSCA included \$500 million divided in equal amounts for each of FY22-26 for this program, which seeks to support and demonstrate innovative partnerships to train school-based mental health service providers for employment in schools and LEAs.