

School Mental Health Coalition

Recommendations on the MI Safe Schools Roadmap and HB 5910 - 5913

Background

- 14 million students in schools with no counselors/nurses/psychologists/social workers
- Chronic, unmitigated stress leads to challenges in memory and learning
- Standardized Assessment during and after a crisis raises concerns regarding effects on performance/validity of results
- Long lasting mental health symptoms are expected post COVID-19 pandemic

Recommendations

- Leadership in Governance Regulatory Issues: “A time for Grace”
- Strong Leadership, Unity, Collaboration, and Collectively “Working for the Greater Good” are critical elements in a time of crisis--A Case study in field collaboration: MDE/SBMPs *Pandemic Return to School Toolkit: A Focus on Physical and Mental Health Well-being for Educators and Families*
- **MI Safe Start Phases 1 - 3**
 - Mental Health Debriefing for all district staff
 - Mental Health Screening for all students completed prior to benchmark assessments
 - Support for Crisis Teams for Remote-Only Work
 - Guidance for parents on recognizing trauma and crisis in students at home, and how to access school resources to cope
- **MI Safe Start Phase 4 - 6**
 - Mental Health Debriefing for all district staff
 - Mental Health Defusing for all district staff
 - Mental Health Screening for all students completed prior to benchmark assessments
 - Mental Health Debriefing for all students
 - Mental Health Defusing for all students in need
 - Mental Health small group opportunities for students in need

Short Term Considerations

- **Remove sunset** on MDE critical shortage list / Pro mental health budget considerations
- **School Mental Health Presence on State-wide workgroups** that focus on Crisis Planning, Emergency Team Development, Critical Incident Management, Trauma Related Issues/Practices, and to study/respond to the longitudinal effects of COVID-19
- **Increase Attention and Funding** towards Universal Screening, Multi-Tiered Level of Supports (MTSS), Emergency Planning, Development of Crisis Planning and Response Teams, 31n Enhancing School Mental Health Capacity, and supporting Integrative Practices that focus on the **Whole Child**.



Future Considerations

- Ensure Mental Health is part of the School Improvement Process

- Ensure that Mental Health, Wellness, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) are fully integrated within **All** school curriculums in Michigan
- **Focus portion of \$1.3 billion recommendation in Return to Learn on grants to districts** to recruit and retain more School Counselors, Social Workers and School Psychologists

Key Terms

Debriefing: share facts

Defusing: share feelings

Check-in: survey mental health status

Screening: brief mental health assessment

NOTES: