TOPICS

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Mental Wellness Task Force Background
Mental Wellness Task Force Background: What We Know

• Student academic success often stems from the environment in which the student is conditioned to learn.

• Students also need a caring adult in their lives and supportive environment in which to learn.
MENTAL WELLNESS TASK FORCE BACKGROUND: THE PROBLEM WE FACE

• Increase in suicides and depression for our youth aged 12 to 25.

• Young men between 15 and 19 committed suicide at a rate of 17.9 per 100,000, up from 13 per 100,000 in 2000 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

• 2019 data reports shows a troubling 1.1 percent rate increase in chronic absenteeism (California Department of Education)
MENTAL WELLNESS TASK FORCE BACKGROUND: THE APPROACH

• ACSA & the School Crisis Toolkit; leveraging student advocates, federal agencies, thought leaders, and stakeholders to provide resources that save lives.

• Past President Edds and Chair Darrien Johnson lead a group of ACSA practitioners through a series of meetings, interviews and presentations on the best practices around trauma informed practices, and resources.

• Mental Wellness Task Force was formed to examine causes, tools, supports, and models that can help school leaders throughout California.
Collaborations

California Children’s Trust
CASEL + Sacramento City USD
Dr. David Schonfeld (USC/National Center for Crisis and Bereavement)
COLLABORATIONS - CALIFORNIA CHILDREN’S TRUST

- This collaboration has looked at innovative ways to provide funding through the federal share of Medicaid expenditure match to ensure that all children in California receive the support they need for healthy development and social/emotional well-being.

- Maximize federal funding by leveraging existing revenues.

- Broaden access to services that children and youth need, while enhancing quality, integration, and accountability for outcomes across child-serving systems.

- Change how we purchase services for children.
COLLABORATIONS – CALAIM/Healthy California For All
COLLABORATIONS – CASEL

- The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is a trusted source for knowledge about high-quality, evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL).

- CASEL supports educators and policy leaders and enhances the experiences and outcomes for all PreK-12 students.

- This transformative approach is a systematic framework for evaluating the quality of social and emotional programs, and applies this framework to identify and rate dissemination to school across the United States.
COLLABORATIONS – CASEL

SEL in Action

1. Systemic SEL is possible even with leadership changes and relatively small budgets.

2. SEL ideally is integrated into every aspect of the district's work, from the strategic plan and budgets to human resources and operations.

3. SEL ideally is integrated into every aspect of the school: classroom instruction, climate and culture, community-family partnerships.

4. Adult SEL matters — a lot.

5. Successful SEL implementation can follow multiple pathways. But regardless of the approach, the engagement and commitment of both school and district leadership is essential.

6. Data for continuous improvement of SEL implementation is essential.

7. Districts benefit from collaborating with each other on SEL.

Learn more from leading districts in our Key Insights report →
COLLABORATIONS – DR. DAVID SCHONFELD

- ACSA’s Holistic Lens

- ACSA collaborated with Dr. David Schonfeld to combat this epidemic of bereavement and post-traumatic experiences.

- Dr. Schonfeld is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement (NCSCB).

  https://www.schoolcrisiscenter.org/resources/online-resources/#
CASE STUDIES

SAN DIEGO – CITY HEIGHTS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
SAN MATEO COUNTY
The City Heights Partnership for Children became a strategic alliance of parents, youth, residents, nonprofits, governments, academic and philanthropic institutions aligned to create common goal that address opportunities to access resources for the wellbeing and academic success of

- Approximately 9,000 children and youth attending 13 public school in City Heights.

All young people, regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, or socio-economic status, deserve a first-rate education that will allow them to fully develop their human potential.

The San Diego regional economy requires an increasingly skilled workforce. We need our new generation to be our best-educated generation.
CASE STUDIES — SAN DIEGO/CITY HEIGHTS
San Mateo County has a long history of collaboration between local government entities, nonprofits, foundations and non-public entities that has endured for over 30 years.

These relationships were developed during California’s implementation of the Children’s System of Care.

The key features of the program are: Interagency collaboration; family partnership; cultural competence; and outcome evaluation.
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Current Initiatives:
- ALIGNMENT CHILD AND YOUTH CARE
- WATCH ME GROW
- THE BIG LIFT
MENTAL WELLNESS TOOLKIT

- CURRICULUM
- DATA/RESEARCH
- SPEAKER TRAINING
- UNIVERSAL SCREENING
- MULTIPLE (2 OR MORE CATEGORIES)
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

FUNDING
LEA’s need access to robust and sustainable funding, which allows local flexibility to meet their unique needs

ALIGNMENT AND COORDINATION
Addressing these needs will require effort from district/site leaders as well as county agencies

TRAINING
Identifying warning signs and ensure proper response. Establishing buy-in and creating cultures and systems.
Questions
If you have any questions or would like additional information, please visit the ACSA website or contact a Governmental Relations Team.

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