

About North Carolina's School Mental Health Initiative

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The NC School Mental Health Initiative (SMHI) is a grassroots effort to address the social, emotional, and/or behavioral needs of students.

[See *An Imperative to Address School-based Mental Health* –
<http://wp.ncspaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/School-Based-Mental-Health-Position-Paper1.pdf>]

The initiative is facilitated by the NCDPI [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction] staff, but is a shared multi disciplinary partnership with broad representation consisting of educators, public and private sector employees, professional organizations, community based mental health clinicians, lawyers, advocates, university faculty, and parents. The mission of this partnership is to develop recommendations for policy and/or legislative change to ensure that public school students in North Carolina have equitable access to a full continuum of high quality and well coordinated mental health services.

It is the mission of the School Mental Health partnership to develop recommendations for policy and/or legislative change to ensure that public school students in North Carolina have equitable access to a full continuum of high-quality and well-coordinated socio-emotional/behavioral health services. The following inter-agency partners have been identified as key contributors to well-rounded education for all students in North Carolina.

The SMHI worked for over a year to address the needs of children with mental health needs in the schools. The domains listed below are the areas of considerations defined through surveys, focus groups and research that will need to be addressed to provide a structure and intervention for children. The SMHI has also developed recommendations for each of the domain areas and it is from these recommendations that both policy and legislative opportunities will be developed. The domains of work to be addressed are as follows:

1. Provide a continuum of Mental Health Services/Supports for students
2. Promote Positive Mental Health and School Climate/Safety
3. Create Accountability/Effectiveness System for Student Outcomes
4. Establish consolidated/blended sustained funding, including private insurance coverage
5. Create Effective Interagency Collaboration, including confidential information sharing
6. Develop a Sustainable Workforce of Services and Supports within School and Community Providers