
Don't Leave Improving Mental Health in Schools Up to Proposed Legislation

As you may know, Rep. Trone has introduced legislation to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a *pilot grant program* to develop, implement, and evaluate “comprehensive mental health services programs” in elementary and secondary schools

<https://trone.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Comprehensive-Mental-Health-in-Schools-Pilot-Program-Act-of-2021-One-Pager-1.pdf>

Over recent years, other bills have been proposed to expand mental health efforts in schools. Whether or not this bill is passed, schools are already focusing on what to do with COVID relief funds and funds currently allocated for student and learning supports. (And the need is for much more than pilot programs in a few schools.)

Last week, we emphasized that, in moving forward to meet the increased demand for addressing students' mental health, schools need to avoid five potential pitfalls, and they need to plan changes that can be sustained after the temporary relief funds are no longer available (see the Hot Topic discussed at

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/hottopic.htm>).

To help schools as they address the challenges ahead, see the free resource the Center has developed as a guide

- (a) reframing student/learning supports into a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system,
- (b) redeploying available school resources to develop the transformed system,
- (c) weaving in community resources to fill gaps in the system.

Embedding Mental Health as Schools Change –
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html