

Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium

Overview

The Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium (MASMHC) is comprised of Massachusetts school districts committed to improving the mental health services and supports available to students across the Commonwealth. MASMHC member districts recognize the growing needs of our student populations relative to mental illness and substance use and seek creative solutions to enhance prevention efforts, reduce wait time for therapeutic services, and increase the quality and sustainability of school mental health services and supports. Through shared learning, collaboration, and consultation, member districts will actively engage in efforts to improve the well-being of students in order to support their future success.

Purpose & Intent

The purpose of the Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium is to advance the quality and sustainability of school-based mental health services and supports in order to:

1. **Increase awareness** of mental health problems in order to reduce stigma related to mental illness
2. **Promote mental well-being** through education and prevention activities, including advancement of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) instruction
3. **Increase access to and utilization of evidence-based mental health services and supports** for students who require services, including group-based and individual therapeutic services

Member districts will have an opportunity to:

- Share resources, practices, and policies that support school mental health
- Conduct a needs assessment and monitor implementation efforts using the *School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System (SHAPE System)* designed by the University of Maryland's Center for School Mental Health (CSMH)
- Collaboratively design action plans that focus on school mental health issues of local importance
- Receive free professional development to support school mental health implementation efforts
- Strengthen community-based partnerships that support school mental health through networking with community mental health agencies, colleges/universities, and national agencies committed to mental health

Requirements

- **This is an entirely free opportunity. No fees will be required.**
- Member district representation at monthly MASMHC meetings (one or more members from each district who can report back to the larger mental health team)
- Completion of a needs assessment through the SHAPE System to identify targeted areas of need and guide action planning
- Willingness to learn and share policies and practices that promote school mental health services and supports