MASMHC Needs Assessment Results

The nominal group decision-making protocol (see below for details on the protocol) was utilized on March 16, 2018 to identify the collective targeted areas of need related to school mental health for all member districts. This activity was conducted in order to focus the efforts of the MASMHC as it works to provide professional development, training, and technical assistance to member districts to support quality and sustainable implementation of school mental health. The focus question for the activity was the following:

What are our most important collective needs related to school mental health? Please consider needs related to quality, sustainability, and services and supports offered in a social emotional tiered system of support.

Targeted Areas of Need	Votes
Professional development for evidence-based services and supports (implemented with fidelity)	50
Data collection procedures and protocols to better inform practice/track concerns	39
Universal screening/identification of students	39
Development of a multi-tiered system of mental health services and supports	29
Increased staffing	26
Leveraging outside services (more options and availability)	24
Resource mapping (internal and external; school, district, region, state)	20
Tier I services and supports (SEL and prevention/promotion of mental health)	20
Increased funding and resources	12
Tier II services and supports	12
Peer supervision/collaboration	7
Informing parents/guardians about in-school programs vs. outpatient services	3
Defining the role of SMH staff	2

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Nominal Group Decision-making Protocol

1. Small groups of 15-20 members are formed at the outset of the protocol
2. Moderators present the question to the small groups. (1 minute)
3. Group members work independently and write ideas in brief phrases on index cards. (5 minutes)
4. Group members share each idea with the moderator and moderator records each idea on the flip-chart paper for all small group members to see. (5-10 minutes)
5. Each recorded idea is then discussed by the small group to clarify/explain the idea. The revised idea is recorded in its final form for all small group members to see on a separate piece of flip-chart paper. (5-10 minutes)
6. Each small group posts its flip-chart paper in a common area for the entire group to see. Each participant is given six colored dots to use as votes to be placed next to the idea that he/she feels is most important. (5-10 minutes)
7. Votes are tallied to identify the ideas that the collective group has identified as most important.