

How States are Helping Schools and Districts get into SHAPE!

Connecticut



With funding and support from the [Connecticut Department of Children and Families](#), the [Child and Health Development Institute \(CHDI\)](#) provides free training and technical assistance to

Connecticut schools and districts to foster engagement in the SHAPE system. The SHAPE system allows school and district leaders to take stock in what has gone well, identify what is crucial to retain and prioritize, recognize gaps and areas of need, and make sure their school mental health system is robust and efficient. Districts and schools are using SHAPE data and reports to engage in proactive planning; recognize and sustain the strengths of their school mental health system, identify and prioritize areas for improvement; and strategically abandon areas that are not working.

For more information about how Connecticut and CHDI are using SHAPE, please contact **Rebekah Behan**, Project Coordinator, Child Health & Development Institute of CT, Inc. behan@uchc.edu

“Despite school building closure this spring, we were still able to complete the SHAPE assessment with 4 out of 6 of our schools and the **deep, self-reflective discussions that resulted were invaluable. Never before had our school teams stepped back to **review their mental health structures, discuss what was going well and set goals** as a department to make systematic changes moving into the next school year. We are **excited to continue working on the goals** set by each building and see the **impact on student mental health and achievement!**”**

New London, CT school district leader

Indiana



The [Indiana Department of Education](#) first began working with the National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH) in 2017 to expand the use of the School Health and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) system. Since that time, Indiana has grown its collaboration with NCSMH along with the use of SHAPE across our state. For example, in 2019, Indiana received a Project AWARE grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and has made use of SHAPE a requirement for schools to be

awarded this grant funding.

The Indiana Department of Education, and a number of other state level partners (Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Mental Health and Addictions, Department of Child Services) have increasingly used the SHAPE as a key component of the assessment and growth of quality SEL and school mental health supports and capacity across Indiana.

For more information about how Indiana is using SHAPE, please contact **Jeff Wittman**, School Social Work & Foster Youth Specialist at the Indiana Department of Education JWitman@doe.in.gov

Massachusetts



In **Massachusetts**, state leaders encourage districts to use the SHAPE System to drive comprehensive school mental health system (CSMHS) action planning. [The Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium](#)

([MASMHC](#)), an organization comprised of more than 130 districts dedicated to enhancing school mental health implementation, provides training and technical assistance on the SHAPE System to assess local needs and facilitate data-driven action planning. A requirement of the MASMHC mini-grant program was completion of the SHAPE System to ensure districts knew their gaps, reflected on data, and assessed their growth over time.

Beginning fall of 2020, the [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\)](#) and MASMHC is partnering to co-lead an effort facilitated by the National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH). The Massachusetts **Collaborative for Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN)** is a learning collaborative to foster implementation and improve quality of school mental health in several districts. Districts selected for the CoIIN will receive coaching and technical assistance to support their implementation efforts, including use of the SHAPE System to assess needs, generate an action plan, and monitor progress. Throughout the CoIIN, districts will use SHAPE to drive Quality Improvement.

“Using a **common tool and framework** has enhanced collaborative efforts and supported a clearer, **more cohesive understanding of quality school mental health systems**. The aggregated SHAPE system data has **informed the development of training and coaching opportunities** that are sensitive to the most pressing needs of schools and districts.”

MA School Mental Health Leader

For more information about how Massachusetts is using SHAPE, please contact

- **John Crocker**, Director of MASMHC, jcrocker@methuen.k12.ma.us
- **Rachelle Bennett**, Associate Commissioner, Student and Family Support rachelle.engler.bennett@state.ma.us

Sign up for SHAPE as an individual, school, district, or state/territory!



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