

The ND 65th Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 1040 appropriating \$150,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of establishing a children's prevention and early intervention behavioral health services pilot project in the school system; including services to children suffering from the effects of behavioral health issues.

Behavioral Health in Schools



CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTEGRATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION

The Groundwork

Prior to selecting a pilot, a group of stakeholders (including school administrators, special education, higher education, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services and the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders) were brought together and identified a need to develop a meaningful and sustainable model that can be utilized to address schools' behavioral health needs.

⊕ Summary of Identified Needs:

- Improved training and resources for schools and behavioral health professionals overall – language and certifications/licenses do not always align.
- Increased utilization of screening/early intervention services, especially EPSDT.
- Improved access to clinical services when needed, both within the school and externally when appropriate.
- Recovery support especially during transitions back into the school from out-of-home services.

THE PILOT PROJECT

Invitation to Apply (ITA)

The Department of Human Services released an Invitation to Apply (ITA) for the \$150,000:

⊕ **Eligible applicants could be a public or private elementary or middle school in North Dakota demonstrating the following:**

- Leadership support for innovative solutions regarding behavioral health
- School culture supportive of behavioral health
- Implementation of prevention and early intervention efforts
- Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) Implementation
- Readiness to take action
- Sustainability plans

⊕ **Goal of the Project**

- The goal of the North Dakota School Pilot project is to develop a pilot which demonstrates improvement to children's behavioral health in a school setting. Specifically developing an innovative systemic approach to addressing gaps in the school system related to prevention and early intervention of behavioral health conditions or related consequences.

Award

North Dakota Department of Human Services awarded the Children's Prevention and Early Intervention Behavioral Health Pilot Project to Simle Middle School in Bismarck, ND in October of 2018.

Simle Middle School will implement processes and strategies complementing the foundation they have built.

PREVENTION/PROMOTION

Increase access to promotion/prevention-based curricula.

Implement yoga and mindfulness practices.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Identify/develop a screening and referral process for youth with "silent symptoms" who may be at risk for:

- Suicide
- Mental illness
- Substance use
- Experiencing trauma

TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Collaboration with Sanford Health for in-school services and supports.

