



Illinois State Board of Education

IL-AWARE

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Illinois State Board of Education

Wellness Department

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

Agenda

- Overview
- Goals
- Alignment with ISBE's Strategic Plan
- Outcomes



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Overview

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IL SEA Project AWARE Key Points

- IL received \$1.8 million
- Grant will run for 5 years until 2025
- (ISBE) will expand its efforts to help schools better identify and respond to mental health issues among youth
- IL will expand a framework of evidence-based practices and develop sustainable systems at the state level

IL-AWARE Purpose

- Increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth;
- Provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues; and
- Connect school-aged youth, who may have behavioral health issues (including serious emotional disturbance [SED] or serious mental illness [SMI]), and their families to needed services



LEAs

- City of Chicago School District #299
- Eldorado CUSD #4
- Bloomington SD #87





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Goals

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IL-AWARE Goal 1

- Increase and improve access to culturally competent and developmentally appropriate school- and community-based mental health services, particularly for children and youth with SED or SMI.

IL-AWARE Goal 2

- Develop school-based mental health programs staffed by behavioral health specialists (psychologists, advance practice nurses, counselors, clinical social workers), in order to screen for, provide early intervention for, and to address any ongoing mental health needs of children with symptoms consistent with a mental disorder(s) or SED.

IL-AWARE Goal 3

- Conduct outreach and engagement with school-aged youth and their families to increase awareness and identification of mental health issues and to promote positive mental health.

IL-AWARE Goal 4

- Connect families, schools, and communities, to increase engagement and involvement in planning and implementing school and community programs for school-aged youth.

IL-AWARE Goal 5

- Help school-aged youth develop skills that will promote resilience and promote pro-social behaviors; avert development of mental and behavioral health disorders; and prevent youth violence.

IL-AWARE Goal 6

- Equip schools with the ability to immediately respond to the needs of youth who may be exhibiting behavioral/psychological signs of a severity indicating the need for clinical intervention.

IL-AWARE Goal 7

- Develop an infrastructure that will sustain and expand mental health and behavioral health services and supports for school-aged youth when federal funding ends.





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Alignment With ISBE's Strategic Plan



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ISBE's Strategic Plan

Goal 2

- ALL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS WILL RECEIVE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO CREATE SAFE, HEALTHY, AND WELCOMING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS, AND WILL BE EQUIPPED TO MEET THE UNIQUE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF EACH AND EVERY STUDENT.

Priority 1

- **PRIORITY 1: STUDENT WELL-BEING | ALL SCHOOLS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO CREATE SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR EVERY STUDENT.**



Alignment With ISBE's Strategic Plan

- 2.1.1 Support schools to address the social and emotional needs of students, educators, and staff impacted by COVID-19 by providing them with high-quality professional development.
- IL-AWARE will provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues. This training will consist of Youth Mental Health First Aid and other professional development opportunities, including guidance from partnering mental health agencies and community groups.

Alignment With ISBE's Strategic Plan

- 2.1.2 Support district implementation of policy and guidance to promote students' safety and wellbeing, including non-discrimination and inclusion.
- IL-AWARE will increase awareness of mental health issues and encourage policy change within schools to better support student safety, inclusion, and reducing stigma surrounding mental health conditions.

Alignment With ISBE's Strategic Plan

- 2.1.4 Support implicit bias training through professional development in schools and classrooms.
- IL-AWARE plans include professional development targeted to increase awareness of mental health issues, which will support implicit bias training for those that regularly interact with school-aged youth.



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Outcomes

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Desired Outcomes

- At the end of five years, we hope to have a strong, sustainable school behavioral health system to model in other school districts.
- We proposed to serve a minimum of 1,600 annually, totaling 8,000 unduplicated youth over the project period

Questions should be directed
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Thank you



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