

UNITED WAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEST PRACTICES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



United Way supports community and student behavioral health and best practices that align with the six conditions of the Community School model.

Positive behavioral health is important because:

- Students' performance and classroom environment improve.
- Teachers focus on student engagement and teaching and less on discipline and classroom management.

United Way Role:
Technical assistance to support the implementation of approved best practices, grant writing and resource development, and research and evaluation.

Components: Successful Behavioral Health Program

- Team-based approach
- Assessment tool to determine need and monitor progress
- Data-driven referral system
- Tiered interventions based on student need
- School staff trained in behavioral health signs and supports (SAP team)
- Support to targeted student families
- Behavioral health services on-site at school

Strategy: Boston Public School Behavioral Health Tool

In 2012–13, Boston Public Schools (BPS) launched 10 BPS schools (K–Grade 12). Another 10 schools joined for the 2013–14 school year. Each participating school has begun to implement a tiered model of interventions and support, including a screening tool (BIMASS), which helps schools better understand and respond to each student's behavioral health needs.

- **BIMASS** – universal screening tool to identify behavioral need and place students in correct tiered intervention to help:
 - improve academic performance
 - increase prosocial behaviors
 - improve school climate and student engagement
 - increase to address students' needs
 - increase capacity to provide services
 - improve access to and coordination of services

Program: Pennsylvania Counseling Services: School Based Services: Lancaster

Pennsylvania Counseling Services are provided on-site, in schools, including school-based outpatient (licensed as a satellite outpatient facility), allowing for services to be billed to medical assistance. This places a therapist at the school to meet the mental health and drug and alcohol treatment needs of students; also includes Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services and Student Assistance Program. This program has:

- reduced the number of special education referrals
- decreased the number of high-risk students

Impact:

More than 90% of children enter treatment when referred to a school-based outpatient program and less than 20% enter treatment when referred to a traditional outpatient clinic.

For more information, please visit www.pacounseling.com/files/school-based-services-brochure.pdf.

Program: Voices Clinic Broughal Middle School

Pilot project with Allen High School, Broughal Middle School, Pyramid Health Care, and Raub Middle School; Partnership with outpatient behavioral health providers to offer on-site behavioral health services (therapist, psychiatrist and medication on-site).

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