

**Collaborative Task Force on School Mental Health
Authorized through House Bill 906
District Survey 2022**

The Task Force would like to thank individuals who submitted questions, allowing for further clarification of any items that may have been unclear. The following questions are organized with the specific survey item reflected in bold and the question from the LEA listed below. The Task Force Workgroup's response immediately follows the question.

Survey Item 4. Select the components of school mental health to which your district has made changes in response to the pandemic.

Question: Do you want us to include material made available prior to the pandemic, or only pandemic responses?

Response: We request that you reflect any area of the district's school mental health system that may have been changed in response to the pandemic. This could represent an existing program area that was discontinued in response to the pandemic or an area that was initiated or increased/expanded in response to the pandemic and associated needs. We are interested in understanding the areas in which LEAs identified changes in student, family, or staff needs or the capacity of district and campus staff. Additional items in the survey will allow LEAs to identify whether select components of school mental health have been established in schools within the district.

Survey Item 5: Has your district implemented changes to any of the following in response to increased mental health needs among students, families, or staff?

Question: Again, do we include only changes made "in response", or do we acknowledge available supports if they were incorporated pre-pandemic?

Response: Please limit your response to changes that were made in response to the pandemic and increased mental health needs identified among students, families or staff. You do not need to acknowledge supports that were available prior to the pandemic. Additional items in the survey will allow LEAs to identify whether select components of school mental health are established in schools within the district.

Survey Item 9: Please identify the percentage of time that school counselors in your district spend on the following activities. If the time analysis is not complete, please include an estimate. (Should total 100)

Question: The survey seems to assume that all counselors do the same job (referring to the question asking about time on tasks). It does not take into consideration that districts may have designated counselors that serve different roles. For example, we have multiple counselors on each campus, with one having 100% of his/her time dedicated to SEL services and supports, while others are assigned to support the comprehensive guidance and counseling program or serve as a designated college/career counselor. Without this understanding, I believe the data will be skewed and not accurately reflect the supports offered by counselors in the SEL space.

Response: The Task Force recognizes the complexity of the varied roles and duties that professional school counselors serve within districts, and this question will only be one data point among many. When combined with data reflecting the Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in each district, we hope to gain additional information about the types of roles filled by professional school counselors and the proportion of time allotted to those duties. In addition to this aggregated data, the Task Force has conducted listening sessions with counselors to gather direct feedback on the issues that are most pressing. Since this data point is likely to be a summary across more than one individual, please try to create an average across the different individuals using your best judgement.

Survey Item 18: Which mental health-related topic areas has your district offered professional development for in the last 12 months? *Specific universal program for all students; *Specific mental health program for selected students; *Evidence-based therapies

Question: I would like clarity on the last 3 options. Are you looking for a standard curriculum offered across the board? Were you looking at teachers and other staff utilizing evidence-based therapy?

Response: The options that you referenced are reflecting formal supports that may be provided to students within the three tiers of the multi-tiered system of support. We are interested in understanding if the district has offered professional development to staff members (by category) in one or more of these formal supports. We don't expect every type of staff member to receive every type of professional development, and some training may be more applicable to certain roles.