Effective School-Community Partnerships to Support Student Mental Health

**WHY SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH?**

75-80% of children and youth in need of mental health services do not receive them

Of youth who receive mental health services, most receive them in schools

**WHY SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS?**

Effective collaboration between school-employed and community mental health partners broadens the availability of supports and enhances access to mental health care

It is not either/or, it is both/and!

**ELEMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS**

Appropriate staffing of school employed mental health professionals (e.g., school psychologists, counselors, and social workers) and community providers

Clearly defined roles and responsibilities, shared accountability, effective communication, and a commitment to work toward mutually identified goals

Diverse, braided, and sustainable funding streams to support school and community based mental health services

**CALL TO ACTION**

Encourage decision-makers to sustain school-community partnerships through the following actions:

- Fund efforts that advance collaborative school-community partnerships
- Address shortages in school mental health workforce (e.g., school psychologists)
- Dedicate funding for school mental health
- Ensure state Medicaid plans recognize that school psychologists are appropriate providers for school mental health services

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