



Anne Arundel School Mental Health Initiative

A Partnership between Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Division of Special Education & University of Maryland's School of Medicine

The primary goal of the Anne Arundel School Mental Health Initiative (AASMHI) is to expand the continuum of services and supports to students with emotional and behavioral difficulties. AASMHI currently operates in schools located in the North County, Northeast, Glen Burnie, and Meade clusters of Anne Arundel County. AASMHI services and supports are provided to students in their home school.

What are the potential benefits of AASMHI?

- Increased collaboration between school staff, mental health professionals, families, and collaborating community agencies
- Improvement in students' academic performance, behavior, and social/emotional functioning
- Increased support for teachers and administration
- Enhanced capacity within the school system to meet the needs of a diverse student population
- Reduced referrals to alternative or non-public school placements and associated cost savings at the county and state level

What are some of the services that we offer?

- Individual, Group, and Family Counseling
- Mental Health Evaluations & Crisis Intervention
- Teacher Support and Consultation & Professional Development
- Parenting Support & Advocacy for Students and Families
- Student and Family Connections to Community Resources

Which students can be referred to Anne Arundel School Mental Health Initiative?

To refer a student, contact the ED Specialist assigned to your school. Please review the eligibility criteria outlined below to determine whether your referral is appropriate. Final determination of whether a referral is appropriate will be at the discretion of the ED Specialist and AASMHI Counselor.

Referred students must:

- Attend select elementary/middle schools in the identified regions
- Have emotional and behavioral needs that impact availability for academic engagement and evidence that documented interventions have met with limited success
- Frequently exhibit any of the following:
 - Poor anger control, fighting, bullying or threatening others
 - Severe rule violations
 - Poor problem-solving skills
 - Depressed mood or excessive anxiety
 - Poor peer relationships
 - Poor impulse control and/or attention problems
 - Other serious or concerning behaviors