Promoting School Mental Health & Preventing Youth Violence Using the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Framework

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Presented by: Kelly Wells & Mary Thorngren
The National Resource Center, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), offers resources and expert support to help prevent youth violence and promote the overall well-being of children, youth, and their families.
The NRC address the problems in communities that impact the overall well-being of children, youth, and their families such as mental health, substance abuse, bullying, gang violence, and gun violence.
Supports efforts serving CHILDREN AND YOUTH from before birth through high school
The National Resource Center

SERVES:

Safe Schools/ Healthy Students (SS/HS) State-funded Grantees &
the Field at-Large
Helps local, state, and national systems WORK TOGETHER

EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEALTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

• CHILD WELFARE

• JUVENILE JUSTICE

• LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Objectives

1. Understand the background of the SS/HS Initiative and how the success achieved since 1999 informed the new SS/HS State Grant Program.
2. Learn how to use the SS/HS Framework in developing collaborations between education/mental health and other child-serving systems.
3. Learn about the SS/HS Framework Implementation Toolkit (SS/HS FIT) and how these resources can assist school and communities in building capacity to develop, implement, and sustain comprehensive mental health promotion and youth violence prevention activities.

www.healthysafechildren.org
Background of SS/HS: Lessons Learned Since 1999
SS/HS – How did this Initiative Begin?

• As part of the federal response to the first school shootings, SS/HS was one of the few cross-agency violence prevention initiatives created by U.S. Department of Education, SAMHSA, and Department of Justice.

• Since 1999, SS/HS has served over 365 local school districts in the United States helping build capacity by collaborating with multiple systems—education, mental health, juvenile justice, and law enforcement to improve access to mental health services, decrease youth violence, and promote early interventions in schools and communities.
SAFE SCHOOLS / HEALTHY STUDENTS:
1999–2013

- 13 million youth
- 365 communities
- 49 states
Evaluation of SS/HS

Findings show this model works:
• 90% of school staff saw reduced violence on school grounds and 80% of school staff reported that SS/HS reduced violence in their communities
• 263% increase in the number of students who received school-based mental health services and 519% increase in students receiving community-based services
• 90% of school staff were better able to detect mental health problems with students
Partnership Success Strategies

The SS/HS initiative demonstrated:

- Partners found common threads in each of their missions.
- Partners shared data which created greater awareness and helped establish linkages.
- Key decision makers were essential in getting things done within the collaborative.
- Data collected in schools represented what was happening in the community.
- Key leaders were vital for on-going communication between meetings.
Sustainability Success Strategies

• More local funds from a variety of community sources were identified to continue the work that had been started (blending and braiding funds)
• Coordinated efforts were made among agencies and organizations in writing new local, state, and federal grant applications (diminished competition)
Sustainability Success Strategies

• Using data-driven decision making to collect and analyze local data to meet the needs of the populations served and enhance credibility with key stakeholders
• Communication strategies to share data, outcomes, and accomplishments with a wide range of audiences
Next Generation of SS/HS

In 2013, Congress scaled-up SS/HS from the local level to the State level. Grants were awarded to the State Departments of Education or State Departments of Mental Health. The new SS/HS State program funded 7 states to each work with 3 pilot local education agencies (LEAs)/communities to create an integrated network of programs, activities, and policies to improve the lives of children, youth, and families.
Next Generation of SS/HS

Purpose
To create safe and supportive schools and communities by bringing the SS/HS model to scale at the state/tribe level by building partnerships among educational, behavioral health and criminal/juvenile justice systems.

Goals
• Increase the number of children and youth who have access to behavioral health services
• Decrease the number of students who use substances
• Increase supports for early childhood development
• Improve school climate
• Reduce the number of students who are exposed to violence
SAFE SCHOOLS / HEALTHY STUDENTS:
2013+
The Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Framework tool helps you and your partners understand and plan a comprehensive approach to mental health promotion and youth violence prevention and was developed from evaluation data and working with SS/HS grantees across the country since 1999.

The SS/HS Framework integrates the five SS/HS Elements with Strategic Approaches and Guiding Principles. The SS/HS Elements are the core components of the SS/HS Initiative while the Strategic Approaches are the roadmap to ensure success in planning and implementation in how education, mental health, and child and family serving agencies work together at the State and community level. The Guiding Principles are the values that connect content and program areas of the Framework. You can use this interactive tool at the state or community level to develop a comprehensive plan to meet your unique needs in mental health promotion and youth violence prevention.

Select Approach | Select Element | Click "GO" Button
--- | --- | ---
1 | 2 | 3

**SELECT A STRATEGIC APPROACH**
- Collaboration & Partnership
- Technology
- Policy Change & Development
- Capacity Building
- Systemic Change & Integration

**SELECT AN ELEMENT (CLICK "GO")**
- Promoting Early Childhood Social & Emotional Learning & Development
- Promoting Mental, Emotional & Behavioral Health
- Connecting Families, Schools & Communities
- Preventing Behavioral Health Problems
- Creating Safe & Violence-Free Schools

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
- Cultural & Linguistic Competency
- Resource Leveraging
- Serving Vulnerable & At-Risk Populations
- Sustainability
- Developmentally Appropriate
- Youth Guided & Family Driven
- Evidence-Based Interventions

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SS/HS Framework Implementation Toolkit

Create Safe and Healthy Learning Environments

Since 1999, states and communities across the country have been working together to promote mental health and reduce youth violence among their children and youth. This Framework Implementation Toolkit is an online guide based on the experience of the states and communities funded by the Safe Schools/Healthy Students. It includes guides, tools, and worksheets to help you Plan, Implement, Sustain & Expand this unique approach to youth violence prevention in your community.

Your Guide to this Toolkit

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Framework Implementation Toolkit is designed for use by school-based teams at the community level, and can also be used by teams based at community mental health and youth-serving organizations working in law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social services. If you want to learn more about how to use this Framework Implementation Toolkit, view the Video Guide.

Learn from Your Peers. Explore the Interactive Framework

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Framework Implementation Toolkit is designed for use by school-based teams at the community level, and can also be used by teams based at community mental health and youth-serving organizations working in law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social services. If you want to learn more about how to use this Framework Implementation Toolkit, view the Video Guide.
SS/HS FIT

Phase 1: Plan
Phase 2: Implement
Phase 3: Sustain & Expand
# Phase 1: Plan for Success

Your Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program begins with a comprehensive plan. The Plan phase is about working with your partners, families, and youth to assess your challenges, inventory your resources, and develop your vision for the future. It’s about selecting programs and planning services as you work together.

This section includes several key resources, including the Comprehensive Planning Guide that walks you through the steps in this critical phase. Most of these resources include fillable worksheets. We have also included the online courses developed for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students communities to help you delve deeper into an activity such as selecting an evidence-based program or planning your communications efforts. *Less*

## 1 Planning SS/HS Initiatives
- Guide: Planning a Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative in Your School and Community

## 2 Conducting a Needs Assessment and Environmental Scan
- Guide: Conducting a Needs Assessment and Environmental Scan

## 3 Managing SS/HS Initiatives
- Coordinator’s Guide: Managing a Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative

## 4 Developing Disparities Impact Statements
- Learning Module: Disparity Impact Statement and Strategy
- Handbook: Safe Schools/Healthy Students on Developing the Behavioral Health Disparity Impact Statement/Strategy
- Worksheet: Disparities Impact Statement
- Sample: Safe Schools/Healthy Students State Grantee Disparity Impact Statement

## 5 Developing Logic Models
- Learning Module: Safe Schools/Healthy Students Logic Model
- Worksheet: Customizable Logic Model Based upon the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Five Elements

## 6 Planning Strategic Communications
- Learning Module: Introduction to Strategic Communication Planning

## 7 Selecting Evidence-Based Programs
- Learning Module: Selecting Evidence-Based Programs for School Settings
- Checklist: Selecting Evidence-Based Programs for School Settings
- Workbook: Selecting Evidence-Based Programs for School Settings (PDF, 34 pages)

## 8 Familiarizing Yourself with Comprehensive School Mental Health Programs
- Learning Module: Introduction to Comprehensive School Mental Health
- Evaluation Plan Checklist (14kb, PDF)

## 9 Developing Evaluation Plans
- Learning Module: Safe Schools/Healthy Students Comprehensive Evaluation Plan
- Checklist: Comprehensive Evaluation Planning
- Podcast: Peer-to-Peer – Developing an Evaluation Plan

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Guide: Planning a SS/HS Initiative in your School and Community

Components of a Comprehensive Plan:

- Disparity Impact Statement
- Logic Model
- Evaluation Plan

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Examine Disparities

Disparity refers to different or inequitable treatment (how an individual is treated) or services (types, quality, access, and quantity of service availability and utilization) provide to, or received by, children and youth from different cultural groups (e.g., race, ethnicity, sexual identity/orientation) as compared to those provide to, and obtained by, similarly situated groups of children and youth (e.g., non-Hispanic White, heterosexual).

Adapted form Race Matters Forum, sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL

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Disparity Impact Statement and Strategy
Reducing Disparities in Your State, Tribe, Territory, or Community

Welcome!

Link to Healthy Safe Children Learning Portal:
http://www.healthysafechildren.org/learning-portal

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Draw Your Roadmap: Using a Logic Model

1. Goals: What to accomplish?
2. Baseline Data: Define the problem
3. Objectives: What will change?
4. Measures: How to measure change?
5. Strategies: Define the activities
6. Partners: Define roles and responsibilities
7. Fidelity: Continuous quality improvement
3. Learning Objectives
4. Introduction and Purpose of ...
5. Developing the logic Model
6. Step 1: Specifying the SSIHS Gra...
7. Step 2: Defining Goals
8. Step 3: Defining the Baseline 0 ...
9. Step 4: Specifying the Objectives
10. Step 5: Specifying the Activitie...
11. Step 6: Specifying Partners' Ro...
12. Step 7: Specifying the Process ...
13. Step 8: Specifying Outcome, T...
14. Logic Model Example
15. Evaluation
COMMUNICATION PLANNING FOR PROGRAM SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Introduction to Strategic Communication Planning

MODULE 1

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Evaluation Planning

The evaluation plan expands on the information in the logic model by identifying:

• Baseline data for measuring change
• Evaluation design
• Data collection (e.g., entire population or sample)
• Source of information/instrument used
• Person responsible for collecting information
• Timing/frequency of data collection
• Analyzing data
Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Comprehensive Project Evaluation

Self-Paced Learning Module

Link to the SS/HS Comprehensive Project Evaluation Module on Healthy Safe Children Learning Portal:
http://www.healthysafechildren.org/learning-portal
Phase 2: Implement

Your Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program begins with a comprehensive plan. The Plan phase is about working with your partners, families, and youth to assess your challenges, inventory your resources, and develop your vision for the future. It’s about selecting programs and planning services as you work together.

1. Implementing SS/HS Initiatives
2. Preparing to Implement Evidence-Based Programs
3. Preparing to Implement a Comprehensive School Mental Health Programs
4. Engaging Families and Youth
5. Planning Strategic Communications
6. Developing Strategic Communications
7. Moving from Strategy to Action
8. Building SS/HS Infographics
Guide: Implementing a SS/HS Initiative in Your School and Community

• Identify EBPs scope
• Determine readiness to implement
• Selecting EBPs from national registries
• EBPs impact
• Monitoring EBP fidelity

Selecting Evidence-Based Programs

This brief provides a framework for identifying key pieces of information you should know to select evidence-based programs (EBPs). It includes information on identifying EBPs, determining readiness to implement, tracking outcomes, and monitoring fidelity. In the appendix, key questions are summarized in a discussion guide, along with worksheets and resources to help you select an EBP that meets your needs.

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This customizable template can help you demonstrate how your SS/HS initiative has made a difference to your state or community over time. Use this space for a summary statement that helps audiences understand the why your work matters, what you do, and how you do it. The data points used below are only examples. Replace them with your own data, using baseline data points on the left and outcome data points on the right.

THEN

Truancy

X% of high schoolers had more than six unexcused absences in the 2014-2015 school year.

NOW

Truancy

X% of high schoolers had more than six unexcused absences in the last semester representing a XYZ% improvement.

Year to Year Improvement

Consider adding a longitudinal timeline that visualizes improvement, for example:

Middle Schoolers Receiving School-based Mental Health Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looking Ahead

Use this space to describe your initiative’s plan for sustainability.

- What do you plan to accomplish going forward?
- Who are the partners who will join you?
- How will you continue to measure success?
- What else do you want readers to know — or do — to help you sustain your work?

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**Phase 3: Sustain & Expand**

This section includes several key resources, including the Comprehensive Planning Guide that walks you through the steps in this critical phase. Most of these resources include fillable worksheets. We have also included the online courses developed for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students communities to help you delve deeper into an activity such as selecting an evidence-based program or planning your communications efforts.

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<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sustaining and Expanding SS/HS Initiatives</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Familiarizing Yourself with State Agency School Mental Health Strategies</td>
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<td>Learning from Peers: SS/HS Successes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Learning from Examples: 2013 SS/HS Successes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Guide: Sustaining and Expanding SS/HS Initiative in Your School and Community with Support from the State

Guide: Local Strategies to Sustain and Expand SS/HS Initiatives at the School and Community Level
What is Sustainability? What does it Mean?

• States and communities use their data to determine which strategies are resulting in successful outcomes

• Strategies which have not been successful or need extensive resources are put to the side

• Focus is on how to maintain successful strategies using the integrated strength of local or state partnerships – the goal of sustainability

• The partnership may use a variety of strategies to reach this goal:
  • Various partners share fiscal/leadership responsibilities
  • The partnership applies for other federal or state resources
  • Local and state partnerships create system or policy change to sustain successful strategies
Sustaining Investments Through Building Capacity

1. State can implement with quality and fidelity to the SS/HS Framework
2. State can create a continuum of cross-sector system care for prenatal to 18 years of age
3. State can properly select and use evidence-based practices
4. State can use data to make informed decisions
5. State can provide cultural linguistic competency (CLC) services especially for underserved youth and families

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Sustaining Investments Through Building Capacity

6. State can recruit, train, and retain a skilled workforce

7. State can create multi-level collaboration and partnerships

8. State can apply evaluation results to adapt EBPs and promising practices so they can be effective in diverse communities

9. State can develop strategies to create systems-level changes to reduce health disparities
Sustaining Investments Through Building Capacity

10. State can enhance its infrastructure to support sustained systems-level collaborations

11. State can enhance its infrastructure to support sustained and expanded mental health promotion and youth violence prevention

12. State can enhance their infrastructure to support expanded adoption and diffusion of effective program strategies and systems
Additional Resources

Visit the NRC website for more:
www.healthysafechildren.org

✓ Trending Topics - Resources and information when you need it
✓ Grantee Spotlights – See how grantees are building sustainable programs
✓ SS/HS Framework Examples – Read how grantees are operationalizing the framework
✓ Archived webinars from experts in the field

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Questions
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Stay Connected

http://www.healthysafechildren.org/stay-connected
If you would like more information about the content of this online learning event or about how the National Resource Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention can help you with the work you do, please contact 1-866-577-5787 or via email at Healthysafechildren@air.org

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