



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 3, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Directors of Student Support Services, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, School Counselors
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: May 31, 2023

Comprehensive School Mental Health Technical Assistance Project

Addressing the mental health needs of young people in our state is critical for both individual students and the broader school community. Schools across the state can improve their ability to recognize and respond to youth mental health challenges by participating in the Comprehensive School Mental Health Technical Assistance Project.

As part of Governor Murphy's "Strengthening Youth Mental Health" initiative, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in collaboration with the Rutgers Center for Comprehensive School Mental Health (Rutgers-CCSMH), invites school districts to apply for an opportunity to participate in the Comprehensive School Mental Health Technical Assistance Project.

This three-year project is designed to build internal capacity and expertise within a school to support the implementation and sustainability of comprehensive school mental health as described in the [New Jersey Comprehensive School Mental Health Resource Guide](#). As part of the project, each school will identify school mental health leads and a comprehensive school mental health team. Project participants will receive:

- Individualized consultation and technical assistance to implement comprehensive school mental health systems;
- Trainings to increase educator capacity to enhance mental health programming and service delivery within the district.
 - Training topics include school assessment and action planning, mental health promotion, early intervention services, alignment of student services using a data-driven process, risk assessment, and suicide prevention;
- Coaching support to identify evidence-based tier two and three interventions; and
- Membership for the school mental health leads in the School Mental Health Leadership Academy to promote sustainability and community building across schools and districts.

Schools interested in being considered for this project must submit an [online application](#) by May 31, 2023. Additional information about this opportunity can be found on the [Rutgers Center for Comprehensive School Mental Health website](#). Should you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact the Office of Student Support Services by emailing SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools