

New York State

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Leading the Way



It is of particular importance to have sufficient supports for children in schools. These critical support personnel include guidance counselors, health professionals such as school nurses, and licensed clinical social workers – who work not only to address mental health concerns, but also identify behavioral issues and can be a positive support system for the academic system, family and community.

For example, social workers are trained in evidence-based individual, group and family counseling and have a unique perspective to view the child as part of a larger system to identify unmet physical and emotional needs. They can provide crisis intervention, conflict resolution, and social and emotional support to best meet the needs of children, youth and families.

Mental health support for children, families and all New Yorkers must remain the highest priority for our state.

Support and Expand School Mental Health Programs

According to a recent survey of NYS school superintendents by the NYS Council of School Superintendents, 52% of superintendents would make “improving mental health, counseling, social work or related services” a priority for new funding, up from 35% the previous year. Improving mental health services was overwhelmingly the most widely cited priority for superintendents.

The NYS Board of Regents, at their January meeting, proposed adding mental health instruction to the current health education curriculum with full support from education stakeholders.

We are proud collaborators with the NYS School Boards Association, who is hosting mental health symposiums around the state, focusing on how the education system, educators, parents and communities can better support the mental health needs of children.

Therefore, NYS PTA fully supports the \$250,000 allocation to create mental health support grants for community schools, and calls for substantially more funding for this initiative.

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