Did you know?  
- 50% of chronic mental illnesses begin by age 14  
- 50% of lifetime cases of anxiety disorders begin as early as 8 years old  
- 22% of youth experience serious mental illness each year  

We ask the legislature to act to increase support for school-based mental health programs, services, and initiatives for our children.  

Mental health support for our students must be of the highest priority.  

The pandemic has drastically increased the need for mental health services for students for many reasons – trauma, loss of loved ones, isolation, depression, anxiety.  

NOW is the time when we need MORE services for students, MORE counselors, social workers, psychologists, and the professional and support staff to see that each child, no matter their zip code, is adequately supported.  

The Executive Budget includes $100 million over two years for a new matching fund, the Recover from COVID School Program (RECOVS), for high-need school districts to:  

- create or expand summer learning, after school, or extended-day and extended-year programs to help students recover academically; and  
- support the hiring of mental health professionals, the expansion of school-based mental health services, and other evidence-based mental health supports to help students and school staff recover socioemotionally.  

School districts will be required to match this State grant funding with their Federal pandemic relief funds.  

While NYS PTA is supportive of this funding, we prefer funding to be non-competitive, non-matching, and available to ALL school districts.  

The Executive Budget also includes $10 million to increase youth health and suicide prevention programs, and includes integration of behavioral health services into pediatric primary care visits. NYS PTA supports these proposals.

For more information, please contact Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky, Esq., NYS PTA Executive Director at execdirector@nyspta.org, 518-452-8808