



Participating States and Districts Overview

National Initiative to Advance Health in K-12 Education by Preventing Chronic Disease and Promoting Healthy Behaviors

Priority 2: Emotional Well-Being

The [National Center for School Mental Health](#) (NCSMH) and [CASEL](#) is hosting a free, one-year (August 2026-May 2027) CDC Healthy Schools WSCC Emotional Well-Being Learning Collaborative (WSCC Emotional Well-Being LC) to advance emotional well-being in K-12 schools through focus on **mental health** and **emotional well-being supports**. Participating state teams will work with identified districts and schools to **advance school-based services** aimed at improving emotional well-being for students and school communities.

Initiative Overview

The CDC's **Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child** (WSCC) framework is a comprehensive, **student-centered** approach to advance emotional well-being that focuses on the connection between health and academic achievement, supported through **evidence-based** policies and practices with the community supporting the schools. The WSCC Emotional Well-Being LC will utilize the WSCC framework to **promote the emotional well-being of children and adolescents in schools** through professional development, technical assistance, training, resources, and implementation support. **The LC will focus on amplifying youth voices by engaging youth as collaborative leaders** in advancing youth emotional well-being.

Learning content will include best practices to advance:

- School Mental Health
- Emotional & Social Skills
- Youth Leadership
- Staff Wellness
- Supporting Teacher-Student Relationships
- Universal Mental Health Early Identification
- Advancing School Emotional Well-Being Policies and Procedures

What is the WSCC Emotional Well-Being LC?

The WSCC Emotional Well-Being LC will be composed of **State Education Agencies (SEAs), districts, schools,** and partners committed to improving emotional well-being in school communities.

NCSMH and **CASEL** will support SEA teams in identifying **approximately 5 districts** with a commitment to a holistic approach to supporting adults and students in school communities.

District leadership teams may include directors of behavioral health/student support services, school climate leads, school administrators, family/community engagement liaisons, educators, and youth and family partners.

Why participate in the WSCC Learning Collaborative?

- Receive year-long training, technical assistance, and coaching from national experts at the NCSMH and CASEL
- Gain access to training and resources from NCSMH and CASEL's extensive partnerships with over 100 organizations to support SEAs, districts, and schools
- Engage in training and supports to **elevate youth voices** and engage youth as **collaborative partners** in advancing youth emotional wellness
- **Improve the quality of services** to support student emotional well-being in your state
- **Collaborate and learn with a network of peers** from across the nation

Expected Responsibilities

	SEA Team	District team	Youth Leaders
Participate in virtual State/Entity Kickoff Meeting to complete needs assessment (1.5 -hours)	✓		
Attend a virtual SEA and District Kick-off Training with the NCSMH and CASEL (two half-days)	✓	✓	
Youth Leadership Academy Intensive Training (two half days)	✓	✓	✓
Attend monthly 1.5-hours LC calls focused on action planning, networking <u>and</u> receive professional development from national experts	✓	✓	
Attend Youth Leadership Action calls to plan, share strategies and receive TA from experts	✓	✓	✓
Complete a brief form about the tools, resources, policies, programs, practices, and services used and the State School Mental Health Profile (1-3 hours)	✓		
Complete the School Mental Health Quality Assessment (SMH-QA) on the School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) System (1-2 hours)		✓	