



2018-19 State Budget – Support Community School – Mental Health Grants

The New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health and Families Together in New York State SUPPORT enhanced mental health grants to community-based organizations that work in Community Schools and the 57 Small City school districts. Mental health supports in schools not only help schools achieve their goals and standards, such as attendance and classroom performance, but also help students with personal relationship skills, family engagement, social and emotional competence.

Grant Funding – Modest Investment/Big Results

A SIMILAR SCHOOL MODEL MEASURES 4 INDICATORS: ATTENDANCE, INCIDENT-REFERRALS, CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE AND GRADUATION RATES. GRADUATION RATES INCREASED BY 20%; GPA OF YOUTH SERVED INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 8-10 POINTS AND INCIDENT REFERRALS FELL.

That is why we **STRONGLY** urge the Legislature to expand the Governor's proposal to fund mental health supports at Community Schools by adding \$14 million and including the 57 Small City School Districts. Some small city school districts that are without

Community School funding are characterized by poor or near-poor populations. Including as many districts as possible as eligible for the funding will improve the access of families to available community services that they would remain unaware of without the referral capacity of the behavioral health workers in school settings. It is the forging of partnerships among school districts, mental health professionals and child-serving local agencies that will truly help meet the needs of children and families facing significant challenges.

A recent report, "Losing Ground" from the Council of School Superintendents shows that school superintendents rank the increasing cost of mental health related services as a top concern statewide. And, the New York State School Boards Association has written a report stating, "Community schools can help students overcome the adverse effects of poverty and other obstacles to success."

Together, the Coalition and FTNYS, on behalf of the children and families we serve, requests that the NYS Legislature:

- **ADD \$14 million to the proposed \$250,000 for mental health supports in schools, and**
- **FUND a minimum of \$250,000 and a maximum of \$400,000 in grants for mental health support services at both Community Schools and Small City School Districts.**

Schools + Mental Health + Kids + Families = Success