



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

1. DEDICATED STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM STAFFING

Require funding to establish at least one full time position at MSDE and an office with at least one full-time staff member dedicated to school behavioral health in every Local Education Authority (LEA). Ensure these positions are adequately resourced to achieve the following;

- Technical assistance, training and resources to LEA school behavioral health staff
- Uniform outcomes and deliverables
- Central point of contact for state and local interagency collaboration, and public liaison
- Ensures appropriate coordination between school-based services and school-linked services delivered by community partners
- Identification of funding mechanisms to support needed services
- Ensures active participation of youth and families in the development of services
- Content expert on Information and resources at the state and local levels

2. SCALING OF SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE AVAILABILITY IN ALL JURISDICTIONS

Ensure the availability of behavioral health services and supports, encompassing both mental health and substance use needs, appropriate to the school setting:

- Services to enhance the learning environment for all students (Tier 1)
- Early intervention services for at risk students (Tier 2)
- School-linked services for students experiencing significant functional impairment (Tier 3)

3. SYSTEMATIC SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENT NEEDS

Develop comprehensive, systematic screening to identify and support students with behavioral health needs using an evidence-based measurement approach

4. STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND OUTCOME MEASUREMENT

Build on existing school behavioral health outcome measurement to develop an integrated and uniform district and state level data measurement system to evaluate and demonstrate results, and inform policy decisions

5. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Ensure the availability of accessible and low cost behavioral health training for school system and school-linked personnel

These recommendations are supported by the following organizations:

- *Advocates for Children and Youth*
- *Behavioral Health System Baltimore*
- *Catholic Charities*
- *Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland*
- *Disability Rights Maryland*
- *Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland*
- *Lighthouse, Inc.*
- *Maryland Coalition of Families*
- *Maryland Occupational Therapy Association*
- *Maryland Psychiatric Society*
- *Mental Health Association of Maryland*
- *NAMI-Maryland*
- *University of Maryland, Center for School Mental Health*