

# School Mental and Behavioral Health



## General Description:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides information on mental health resources available for schools, promotes linkages to mental health services and participates in interagency coordination for mental health services pursuant to Texas statutory requirements, state policies and plans for school mental health.

TEA leads the collaborative Hurricane Harvey Task Force on School Mental Health Supports, serves on the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, coordinates with the Health and Human Services Commission to promote Mental Health First Aid training, and participates in interagency agreements for the Systems of Care Framework and Community Resource Coordination Groups (for students needing services provided by multiple Texas agencies).

TEA leads an interagency mental health workgroup, Unified Services for All Children (USAC), that identifies services, reviews best practice resources for schools and convenes an annual summit on Advancing Behavioral Health Collaboration for School-Age Children and Youth.

## Authority:

- TEC § 11.252 – District Improvement Plans for suicide prevention
- TEC § 21.044 – Educator Preparation
- TEC § 21.462 – Resources for Students with Mental Health Needs
- Health and Safety Code §161.325 - Mental Health Promotion and Intervention, Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention, and Suicide Prevention
- Texas Government Code § 531.055 – Memorandum of Understanding for Persons Needing Multi-agency Services
- Texas Government Code §531.251 – Texas System of Care Framework and Memorandum of Understanding
- Office of the Governor Policy and Plans – Hurricane Harvey Task Force on School Mental Health Supports; School Safety Action Plan
- GAA, Article IX, §10.04 – Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan and Coordinated Expenditures

## Funding:

- No funding is specifically provided for TEA’s mental health initiatives.

## Mental Health Statistics:

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) prevalence data estimates the number of Texas children and youth ages 17 years and younger with a severe emotional disturbance (SED) at 519,368.
- The 2017 Youth Behavior and Risk Surveillance Survey (YBRS) of youth, administered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), reflects rising rates of suicide attempts, sadness and hopelessness among Texas youth.
- 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition. (National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI))
- 11% of youth have a mood disorder. (NAMI)
- 10% of youth have a behavior or conduct disorder. (NAMI)
- 8% of youth have an anxiety disorder. (NAMI)
- 50% of the lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24. (NAMI)
- The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years. (NAMI)
- Approximately 50% of students age 14 and older with a mental health illness dropout of high school. (NAMI)
- 70% of youth in state and local juvenile justice systems have a mental illness. (NAMI)
- Suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24. (NAMI)
- 90% of those who died by suicide had an underlying mental illness. (NAMI)

## Mental Health Resources:

- Best Practices Resources for Schools: [https://tea.texas.gov/About\\_TEA/Other\\_Services/Mental\\_Health/Mental\\_Health\\_and\\_Behavioral\\_Health/](https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Other_Services/Mental_Health/Mental_Health_and_Behavioral_Health/)
- Hurricane Harvey Recovery Resources: [https://tea.texas.gov/Harvey\\_Recovery\\_MH/](https://tea.texas.gov/Harvey_Recovery_MH/)