

# Meeting Students Where They Are: A School-Based Mental Health Initiative

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:** Overwhelming student mental health needs and limited access to care, are compounded by a complex funding environment, where services are often not reimbursable. And there is a shortage of providers who are both trained for school settings and reflective of the diverse student population.

## Objective

To establish a coordinated, embedded system of mental health supports and services at school sites.

## Project Metrics

- **Student Wellbeing Improvement:** Measure the increase in student mental health scores from universal screening surveys.
- **Clinical and Health Outcomes:** Track the reduction in suicide rates, clinical scores for depression/anxiety, and days of hospitalization.
- **Access and Utilization:** Assess care encounters, service reach, and penetration level across the student population.
- **Provider Diversity and Capacity:** Monitor provider type, cultural representation, wait list capacity, and breadth of services offered.
- **Program Sustainability:** Measure financial viability by tracking revenue generated against program overhead costs.

## Leverage Point

- School-Based Mental Health
- Agency Coordination
- Resource Navigation & Awareness
- Mobile Crisis Teams

## Design Mandates

- Radical Accessibility
- No-Wrong-Door Entry

## Ideas

- Schools as Centers of Wellness
- Community Schools/Community School Coordinator
- Wellness Centers
- County-wide tax for school based mental health
- FQHC & Multi-payer Fee Schedule Billing
- Partnerships with funders (Kaiser, Sutter, private and community funders)

## Who/What - Lead

Sonoma County Office of Education

## Who/What - Project's Core

- FQHCs
- Sonoma County Behavioral Health
- Buckelew
- Keystone

