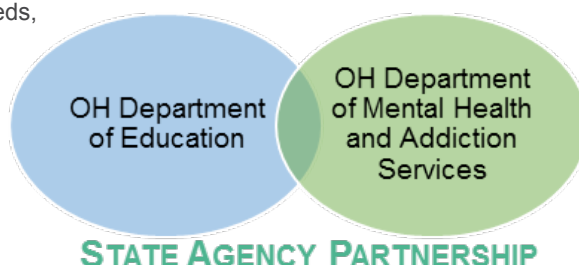




Ohio and Community Partnerships Creating Safe and Healthy Schools

BACKGROUND

Before Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS), Ohio's (OH's) rural communities needed better access to services and a system of school and community partnerships to support the mental health promotion and substance use and violence prevention needs of students and families. In 2013, SS/HS grants offered two rural communities and an urban school district an opportunity to identify partners, needs, plans, and processes for using state and local resources to develop safer and healthy students, families, schools, and communities.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **School climate and mental health:** The state has met 100% of its objective by increasing the number of students who have received behavioral health services. Prior to this grant, Greene County had school-based mental health services but has significantly expanded its programs. In the other two communities, there are now school-based mental health services where there were none before the SS/HS grant. These services are now available within all three local SS/HS communities.
- **Family and community partnership teams:** The goal is to engage families and family engagement partners to achieve and sustain effective partners and programs. Grant communities have received training to establish a family engagement team. Parent survey data are used to assess progress and to support the health, well-being, and educational needs of children and families.
- **Prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and violence in Ohio schools:** Evidence-based programs are being implemented in SS/HS grant communities. Primary prevention education activities and early intervention services are in place to address primary, secondary, and tertiary populations in K–12. In addition, adult leaders and youth members have been trained to implement evidence-based prevention programs to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and violence in Ohio schools.
- **Ohio's Healthy Schools and Communities Resource Team (HSCRT):** The Ohio State Management Team was renamed the HSCRT to describe the integration and work among Ohio's federal-funding initiatives. The HSCRT provides guidance and support to Ohio's SS/HS grantees, Project AWARE grantees, and the School Climate Transformation Grant to support schools, students, and families at the state and local levels.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES AND PROGRAMS

Ohio currently implements the following practices and programs in Greene County, Williams County, and Harrison Hills City School District:

- ✓ PAX Good Behavior Game
- ✓ PBIS
- ✓ Alcohol Literacy Challenge
- ✓ Safe Dates
- ✓ Student Assistance Program Model
- ✓ Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
- ✓ Youth Engagement
- ✓ New Ohio/Georgetown ECMH Consultation
- ✓ Traumatic Event Crisis Intervention Plan (TECIP)
- ✓ F.A.S.T.
- ✓ Care Coordination (Hot Springs Model)
- ✓ Second Step
- ✓ Too Good for Drugs
- ✓ Peer-to-Peer Mediation

"Teaching elementary students about making healthy choices has helped me make better choices for myself."
—Youth Peer Educator, Harrison County

HSCRT vision: Ohio's children will be socially, emotionally, and behaviorally resilient and productive citizens.

Greene County, Ohio

- **Early Childhood Development:** The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program was created to promote young children's social and emotional development and reduce challenging behaviors.
- **School Mental Health Services:** Through a shared-cost funding model, the Greene County Educational Service Center (Greene ESC) expanded school mental health services in one of our largest districts. Greene ESC provides mental health professional development to district staff, therapists, and community members, on topics such as the Traumatic Event Crisis Intervention Plan and Trauma-informed Care.
- **Collaborative Relationships:** Strengthening countywide partnerships and collaboration has enabled the provision of technical assistance, professional development, trainings, and skill building to achieve collective impact.

*"We have a need for mental health services in our buildings, and this service helps our students and their families. Many of them would not seek outside services."
—Greene County, OH, School Counselor*

*"[She] is amazing! She even agreed to be on our PBIS committee that we started this year and is helping us fuse PAX and PBIS throughout the building."
—Greene County, OH, Principal*

Harrison Hills City School District, Ohio

- **Community Network:** By establishing a Community Management Team, Harrison Hills City School District receives feedback and suggestions from a wide variety of community members, programs, and services to ensure inclusive program representation.
- **Violence Prevention:** To ensure the personal safety of students through increased awareness, education, advocacy, and action, we implemented Safe Dates, Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST), and Child Lures (CL). The assigned school resource officer from the Sheriff's Office teaches CL to the elementary schools. All second and fifth grades are receiving CL annually. Evaluations show a significant increase in student knowledge.
- **Family, Youth, and Community Engagement:** Family and community engagement was promoted by conducting a parent survey. Parents stated they believe the schools are meeting the students' needs. In 2017, parents and youth were incorporated into the CMT decision making team. Positive Youth Development Specialists led groups that encourage healthy life choices for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Williams County, Ohio

- **Strategic Partnerships:** By partnering with Ohio's Whole Child Matters Initiative, Williams County provides mental health and behavioral support to preschool staff, children, and parents.
- **School Mental Health Services:** The local hospital in partnership with SS/HS is funding and employing school-based mental health therapists who are stationed in schools as part of the school team.
- **Care Coordination:** Williams County hired and implemented care coordinators to help and support students and families struggling with behavioral and mental health issues and created the *Williams County Resource Guide*, which will benefit families and schools.

64% decrease in disruptive behaviors by implementing PAX

50% decrease in expulsion and/or suspension for first grade students
—in Williams County

*"I love PAX. They, the students, want to be PAX Leaders. It is changing their thinking!"
—First Grade Teacher, Williams County*

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD

The Healthy Schools Community Resource Team will be maintained after SS/HS funding has ended through the existing collaboration of Project AWARE and the School Climate grant. In addition, Ohio is defining how state health and human service agencies work together to maintain a system of services and supports for students in preschool through age 25 based on the activities of the SS/HS and State Youth Treatment Planning grants.

We are committed to sustaining and/or expanding the following programs and services in Ohio:

- ✓ Prevention 101 Education and Technical Assistance
- ✓ Local Community Partnership Teams
- ✓ School Safety Plans and School Climate Supports
- ✓ Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and Support
- ✓ Link With Regional DACC Consultants