

[Public Act 144 of 2022](#) **Section 31aa**
Student Mental Health Guidance

Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature has allocated funding for 2022-2023 school year only for districts to carry out activities to improve student mental health. Funding will be dispersed on a per pupil basis currently estimated to be \$109.00 per pupil. The final per pupil amount will be determined after districts have completed the application found at [Michigan Department of Education Section 31aa, 97, 97c, 97d Application \(state.mi.us\)](#). With consent of its constituent districts, an intermediate district may apply for funding under this section on behalf of its constituent districts.

The allowable expenses for section 31aa include, but are not limited to:

1. Hiring or contracting for support staff for student mental health needs, including, but not limited to, school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and school nurses. Districts will want to coordinate hiring with other funding streams such as 31a, 31n, and 31o, assuring coordination rather than duplication of effort.
2. Purchasing and implementing mental health screening tools. Some guidance can be found at [Examples of Screening Tools and Careful Considerations](#).
3. Providing school-based mental health personnel access to consultation with behavioral health clinicians to respond to complex student mental health needs. More information can be found at [MC3 – Psychiatry support for Michigan primary care providers](#).
4. Any other mental health services or products necessary to improve or maintain the mental health of students and staff. For example:
 - a. Implement a local paid apprenticeship program structured similar to the [Student Mental Health Apprenticeship Retention and Training \(SMART\) Internship program](#) to pay school-based mental health interns and their supervisors.
 - b. MDE chose [bhworks](#) in spring 2021 to help schools statewide obtain consents, screen, identify, assess, refer, and monitor behavioral and mental health treatment for all school-age youth grades K-12. 31aa funds can be used to increase the number of providers using bhworks and to expand its functionality.
 - c. Hire a Coordinator to build, strengthen, and/or sustain your comprehensive school-based behavioral health system and to ensure integration of services.
 - d. Create or strengthen school-based behavioral health assessment teams.
 - e. Hire or contract with experts to provide evidence-based trainings that support student behavioral health.

Other requirements include:

1. A district or intermediate district, as applicable, shall document how it, or if an intermediate district is applying, its constituent district, will use

community input to guide the expenditure of funds it, or the constituent district, will receive.

2. A district or intermediate district as applicable, shall pledge to host, or shall pledge on behalf of its constituent district that the constituent district will host, at least one (1) community conversation about student mental health and school safety.
3. Districts receiving funds must coordinate with intermediate school districts to avoid duplication of services and to streamline delivery of mental health services to students.

For examples of more resources, please visit the Michigan Department of Education's [Mental Health Resources](#) page.

This funding allows schools to provide mental health resources to both students and staff. Our teachers and other school staff cannot pour from an empty cup. While the focus of the MDE's [Mental Health for Staff webpage](#) was to support school staff during the COVID pandemic, there are many resources available to help support staff in the day-to-day work they do in providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students.

The [application](#) can be found through the Grant Electronic Monitoring System/ Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS). The application has been extended and will now close on **Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7:00 a.m.**

If you have questions regarding this information or other aspects of the grant, please contact Scott Hutchins at HutchinsS1@michigan.gov, or Diane Golzynski at 517-241-5362 or GolzynskiD@michigan.gov.