



Supporting students, teachers, schools, and communities in recognizing and responding to mental health concerns among West Virginia's youth.

Serving 18 schools with \$18 million.

Project AWARE WV is currently funded by two grants awarded to the WV Department of Education by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA). The project serves 18 schools in Clay, Cabell, Harrison, Logan, Fayette, and Wirt counties and totals \$18 million combined. These grants are part of a major national initiative to support students, teachers, schools, and communities in recognizing and responding to mental health concerns among West Virginia's youth.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Funding to employ at least one mental health professional in each grant-funded school. Direct services are provided immediately in the school setting.

Workforce training plan to increase the mental health awareness and literacy of school staff, administrators, parents, and others who interact with school-aged youth.

Support to the schools to develop and implement a comprehensive plan of evidence-based, culturally competent, and developmentally appropriate school and community based mental health services.

Tiered system of support - universal prevention, tier 2 selected & indicated group interventions, and tier 3 individual services/therapy.

Meaningful ways to engage students, families, businesses, and community groups to link resources to school-aged youth and their families.

Evidence-based curricula selected based on needs assessment and implemented in each AWARE designated school.

Therapy dog policies developed for 7 participating schools.

Intervention in lieu of suspension for vaping in several AWARE schools.

Community engagement activities to raise awareness, build relationships, support needs, and fight stigma.

Bridge to Success Guidebook, Transition Back to School.



Project AWARE Director



Amy Knicely
knicely7@marshall.edu

SELECTED & IMPLEMENTED EVIDENCE-BASED CURRICULUM

Programs include: PBIS, Positive Action, Catch My Breath, In Depth & Not On Tobacco, Ripple Effects, Second Step, Botvin Life Skills, and Signs of Suicide.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

SEPTEMBER 2020 - DECEMBER 2023

37



Policy/Development Changes

1066



Trainings for Workforce Development¹

*Individuals can be trained on more than one program

8324



Trainings for School Staff and Community²

*Individuals can be trained on more than one program

2373



Students Accessed/Received in-school Mental Health Services

[1] Number of individuals in mental health & related workforce trained in practices that are consistent with goals of Project AWARE. Examples: Motivational Interviewing, Strategies for Preventing Non-Suicidal Self Injury, and Resetting for Resilience.

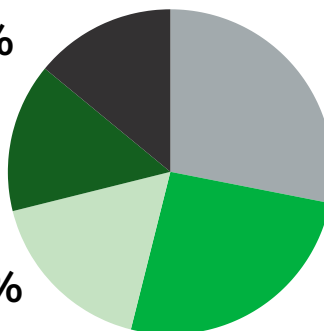
[2] Includes building capacity to identify youth mental health needs, raise awareness, and deliver evidence-based programs and practices. Examples: Trauma-Informed Schools, Talk They Hear You, PBIS, OLWEUS Anti-Bullying Program, and PAX.

TOP FIVE CONCERNS

Worries excessively 8.90%

Argumentative, defiant 9.41%

Low Self-esteem 10.90%



Sad, depressed, or irritable mood 17.80%

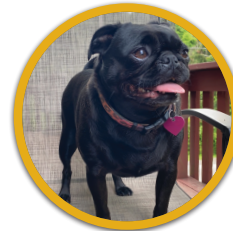
Anxious, fearful 16.37%



Project AWARE West Virginia



COCOA
HARRISON COUNTY



NUTMEG
HARRISON COUNTY



WILLOW
HARRISON COUNTY

THERAPY DOGS



NOODLES
CLAY COUNTY



SAMMIE
CLAY COUNTY



OLLIE
CABELL COUNTY



Building Relationships



Experiential Learning



Service Learning



Professional Development



Peer Mentors



Fighting Stigma

