

Comprehensive School Mental Health Funding: Using Multiple and Diverse Sources

When considering how to use school mental health funding, districts can implement best practices to increase impact and promote sustainability of the system. New school mental health funding provides an opportunity to consider how existing funding and resources can be leveraged to maintain and improve the school mental health system so that it can adapt to the changing needs of students, families, schools, and communities.

Use multiple and diverse funding and resources to support a full continuum of school mental health services and supports.

Consider the levels, types, and systems of funding that can be used to fund a CSMHS.

Levels

e.g., school and district, county tribal, state, federal

Types

e.g., grants, third-party reimbursement, private foundation funding, block grants

Systems

e.g., education, physical, mental, and public health, substance use, child welfare

Multiple and diverse funding sources can be combined using braiding and blending.

Blended Funding

Separate agencies contribute to a common pool from which service are purchased.



Braided Funding

Agencies pool and coordinate resources while maintaining the integrity of each agency's funding stream.

National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH, 2020). School Mental Health Quality Guide: Funding and Sustainability. NCSMH, University of Maryland School of Medicine.