



School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Services State Funds

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Will districts and Independent Charter Schools (ICSs) need to apply for the funds?

No, this is an entitlement program and districts will not need to apply for funds. In the 2023-2025 State Budget, Act 19 changed how funds are distributed under the SBMH Grant program, from a competition to a per pupil allocation to all school districts and ICSs.

Are there limitations on how SBMH State funds can be spent?

Yes, funds must be spent on allowable costs. Allowable costs are outlined in the [School Based Mental Health Services Grant Spending Guidelines](#).

Will districts and ICSs need to report how they are using or plan to use their allocations?

Yes, all school districts and ICSs are required to complete an annual report by July 31st via an [online Qualtrics survey](#). The Qualtrics survey will open May 16th and close July 31st each year. For a copy of the questions included on the Annual Report, reference the [End of Year Reporting Preview](#) document. If funds have not been expended at the time of reporting, districts and ICSs should report on how they plan to use the funding.

How will the funding be allocated?

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimated that the \$25 million per year of funding under Act 19 will provide about \$31 per pupil, based on 2022-23 revenue limit membership and ICSs enrollments. The aid payments in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 will depend on actual enrollments.

When will we know how much funding we will receive?

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will provide districts and ICSs with estimated allocations for the current school year by December 1. Finalized allocations will be provided in June, and a single aid payment will be distributed on the last Monday of June.



When will we receive the funding?

DPI will provide districts and ICSs with estimated allocations for the current school year by December 1 and finalized allocations in June; a single aid payment will be distributed on the last Monday of June.

Is this one-time funding?

This program will be funded on an annual basis per state statute until changed by future legislation.

What is the timeline for using the funding?

While the funding is intended to be used to support student mental health in the year the funding is provided, funds can automatically be carried over to a subsequent year. Any balance carried forward should be coded as restricted fund balance at the end of the year.

How will we receive the funding?

Districts will receive the funding via Automated Clearing House (ACH) and see the payment amounts in the aids register.

Do I need to opt in to receive the funding?

No, districts and ICSs do not need to opt in to receive the funding.

Will we need to submit a plan and a budget?

No. This funding is a direct allocation and does not require a plan or budget.

Will we need to submit claims?

No. This funding is in the form of a direct payment. You will not need to submit claims for funding.

How should the funds be coded?

The funding should be recorded as revenue to fund 10, source 630, project 297.



Is this the same as the Get Kids Ahead Initiative (GKA)?

No. While the parameters are similar, this is separate from the GKA funding and you will be required to complete separate reports for each.

Do we need to partner with a community mental health provider?

The purpose of this funding is to advance implementation of Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS) in Wisconsin schools in partnership with community mental health providers. Community mental health partners can provide an array of services across the continuum of mental health supports, from universal supports like training staff or caregivers, serving on mental health teams or coalitions, and administering universal mental health screenings to early intervention and treatment services such as individual and group treatment services, consultation to school staff or caregivers, and case management and mental health navigation services. While there is no requirement to partner with a community provider, these types of collaborations are highly encouraged as they extend the quality and reach of the schools' continuum of mental health supports.

What is a Comprehensive School Mental Health System (CSMHS)?

A CSMHS provides a continuum of services and supports to promote student and staff mental health and wellbeing. A CSMHS is not limited to treating mental illness or substance use disorders. Rather, it includes services and supports that promote social and emotional wellbeing, foster positive mental health and school culture and eliminate systemic barriers to wellbeing and success for all students. A CSMHS increases health equity by ensuring all students and staff have access to the prevention, early intervention, and treatment supports that they need, when they need them, free of stigma. See the [Wisconsin School Mental Health Framework](#) and the [DPI School Mental Health Webpage](#) for more information.