

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is pleased to announce they are a recipient of a Project Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education (AWARE) grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The purpose of this grant is to build or expand the capacity of state educational agencies, in partnership with state mental health agencies (SAMHAs) overseeing school-aged youth and local education agencies (LEAs), to:

- Increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth,
- Provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues, and
- Connect school-aged youth, who may have behavioral health issues or serious mental illness and their families, to needed services.

With a focus on partnerships and collaboration between state and local systems, Project AWARE supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan of activities, services, and strategies to decrease youth violence and support the healthy development of school-aged youth.

Indiana’s total award is approximately \$9 million over five years. Per requirement of the Project AWARE grant, IDOE is to partner with three LEAs (who will receive 60 percent of annual funding) and their respective community mental health centers. These partners are:

- Avon Community School Corporation – Cummins Behavioral Health Systems, Inc.
- Perry Central Community School Corporation – Southern Hills and Virtual ConsultMD
- Vigo County School Corporation – Hamilton Center

School Corporation	Funding Description	Total Annual Funding
Avon Community School Corporation	\$75,000 base allocation for project manager + \$33.88 per pupil allocation	\$396,224.00
Perry Central Community School Corporation	\$75,000 base allocation for project manager + \$33.88 per pupil allocation	\$177,353.00
Vigo County School Corporation	\$75,000 base allocation for project manager + \$33.88 per pupil allocation	\$566,423.00

In addition to using the school corporation partners to develop model sites for school-based mental health services, IDOE will provide statewide technical assistance activities. These include training on mental health supports such as: the SHAPE assessment tool, Mental Health First Aid training, etc.

In addition, IDOE will:

- Develop guidance for Indiana's schools on how to use federal funding to continue the capacity to implement, sustain, and improve effective mental health awareness and access to treatment,

- Use established Indiana System of Care (a comprehensive network of community service providers) to more clearly define prevention resources and infrastructure for the educational community to access,
- Engage youth and families in promoting awareness of mental health (e.g., Mental Health anti-stigma clubs), and
- Continue development of webpage for awareness campaign around mental health, and provide a hub for community-specific mental health treatment resources and a repository for evidence-based practices for mental health.

To ensure you are receiving updates on Project AWARE, please subscribe to Dr. McCormick's weekly message ([sign up here](#)).

STOP the violence grant

Grant writer: Indiana State Department of Health

Holds funding: Indiana State Department of Health

Point of Contact: Morgan Sprecher MSprecher@isdh.IN.gov

Total funding: 1 Million dollars

Grant period: 3 years

Payments to IDOE will be made in the amount of \$58,333 over three years. Funds may be used to purchase supplies, support salaries, pay for education and training expenses.

Goals of the grant:

First, the ISDH will expand funding for in-school services and prevention education of school personnel, mental health professionals, students, and families. The ISDH will do so by expanding mental health trainings for school staff, students, and families. The ISDH will also provide free trainings on mental health and substance abuse tools provided by Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Division of Mental Health & Addiction (DMHA), through a partnership with ISDH. The ISDH will provide funds to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and FSSA DMHA to fund innovative state-based strategies to support young adults that are high risk for mental illness and establish school policy recommendations.

Second, the ISDH will increase the collection and data timeliness of aggregate school violence, bullying, and adolescent mental health reporting via a mobile phone application that also has a website. The web-based portal will have real-time data which can then be shared between organizations at state and local levels. The ISDH will expand and streamline a rapid mental health response triage where authorities are notified immediately during a reportable event. The ISDH will then create an infrastructure to monitor demographic trends of bullying, mental health, and school violence and provide evidence-based recommendations to state and local stakeholders which will play a role in improving the data collection and reporting.

Third, the ISDH will inform and coordinate an interagency task force to address mental health crisis identification and intervention. Indiana's governor, Eric J. Holcomb, has previously conducted a needs assessment in schools regarding violence. A school safety task force was created in March 2018 in which Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) coordinates, so maintenance of this team will be the main strategy. With this team, ISDH will continue building the relationship between local law enforcement and school personnel in order to increase community involvement for safer Indiana schools.

Project AWARE



STOP Violence



IDOE Oversees the Grant

Health Department Oversees the Grant



5 Years of Funding

Funding

3 Years of Funding



\$9 Million in Funding (60% of Funding Goes Directly to LEAs)

\$1 Million in Funding (\$58,333.00 Goes to IDOE)



Intended to Support Three School Corporations

Support

Intended to Support 92 Counties



- **Increase School-Based Mental Health Services**
- **Provide Training for School Personnel Focused on Mental Health**
- **Increase Whole Child Prevention Strategies**
- **Create a Public Awareness Campaign Around Mental Health**

Goals

- **Expand Funding for In-School Services and Prevention**
- **Increase Collection and Data Timeliness of School Violence, Bullying, and Mental Health Reporting**
- **Coordinate an Interagency Taskforce to Address Mental Health Crisis Identification and Intervention**

Additional funding is needed in order to support all students being socially, emotionally, and mentally well.