

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](#)).