Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of Chicago®
Center for Childhood Resilience

Student Supportive Schools Certification - An Overview

The Center for Childhood Resilience is working to build the capacity of regional education systems to support student resilience, address trauma, and promote healing.

As part of this work, we are engaging a broad swath of stakeholders in the design of a shared measurement framework that reflects the degree to which schools are resourced and equipped to support student resilience. Engagement is led by a Leadership Committee, composed of the State Superintendent of Education from the Illinois State Board of Education, Dr. Vohra of the Illinois Department of Public Health, and Senators Lightford and Fowler of the Illinois General Assembly.

We are sharing this information with you because the stakeholders you represent hold critical perspectives that should be centered as we consider how schools support students. Thank you so much for working with us to understand how to incorporate their input and guidance at the onset of our design process - and for helping us support and build resilience-supportive schools in Illinois.

What is a Student Supportive School?

We believe that all Illinois students deserve a school environment that is safe and supportive, culturally attuned, trauma-responsive, and able to promote positive mental health and wellness. In other words - they deserve a school environment that supports their *resilience*.

We have defined a *resilience-supportive school* as one in which the school environment, programming, policies, practices, and staff capacity work together to support students' capacity to navigate difficulty and heal from trauma.

This framework is inclusive of school-based mental health support structures; the school's capacity for cultural responsiveness, anti-racism, equity, and trauma-responsive policies and practices; and, social-emotional learning integration.



Certifying Schools

A Certification process will leverage data reflective of resilience and tally it within a shared measurement framework. Once calculated, the Certification will be used to offer schools a blueprint for addressing gaps and activating improvements in their school supports. When aggregated and analyzed, Certification data can shine a light on where regional and state resources and policies may be directed towards sustainable statewide change.

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The Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing (REACH) Statewide Initiative is supported by Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER II) from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, please visit oese.ed.gov. Additional support has been provided by Grand Victoria Foundation and other philanthropic partners. If you have any questions, please contact REACH@luriechildrens.org.

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Our goals are to:

1. Work in partnership with schools and regional education systems to build a clear framework and measures reflecting meaningful resilience supports
2. Establish benchmarks to appropriately define success; align school and district support strategies to build on assets, address identified gaps, and meet community needs
3. Provide regional and state decision- makers with the data they need to guide policy and resource distribution towards greatest impact for student resilience

Our Request

We are asking for your help to disseminate a feedback form to adults in and around schools, including teachers, social workers, school psychologists, administrators, school board members, PTA members, and school-based volunteers. We are also seeking feedback from organizations working inside of schools, families, and community members.

The feedback form should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

If a feedback form is not appropriate for your constituents, or you recommend another method of engagement (ex. focus group, targeted meeting), we are happy to work with you to customize the ways we include the perspectives of your constituents in this work.

We will share a summary of results, and we would love to schedule time to present our findings to your constituents.

Resources for Survey Dissemination

English Language and Spanish Language feedback forms are available. We also include a short paragraph below that can be used to embed the feedback form in a newsletter or special communication.

Thank you again for helping us ensure the perspectives of your membership are centered in this important work.

Contact: Sarah Halberstadt, sarah@aimandarrowgroup.com

Feedback Form Dissemination Language

The Center for Childhood Resilience at Lurie Children's Hospital is seeking input regarding how schools can best support student health and wellness. The voices of school faculty and staff, families, and community members are critical to determine what is most important -- and what might be missing -- in Illinois schools today. This input will be used to design a measurement system to support schools in growing their capacity for student support.

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Please set aside 15 minutes to make a contribution to this important statewide initiative by participating in the feedback form below. Access the English Language Form or Spanish Language Form to participate.

OPTIONAL FOLLOW UP MEETINGS: *Please share your email at the end of the form if you are interested in participating in a follow up meeting to give more feedback about this topic. Emails will be used ONLY for this purpose. Participants in hour-long follow up meetings will receive a small stipend in the form of a $50 Target gift card to honor the time and energy spent on meeting participation*.

Optional Background: This link will take you to a two-page document that describes the purpose of the feedback form in more depth.

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