

ISMHA 2020 Legislative Priorities

ISMHA Legislative Goal: To promote the social, emotional and educational well-being of children and families by increasing funding, training, access, and the mental health workforce in schools.

Funding -

- Develop a comprehensive system of funding and services for school mental health to address prevention and early intervention, targeted, and tertiary care. This would include:
 - provide funds to further MH training for current educational staff,
 - provide funds to AEAs to increase the number of frontline mental health staff FTE,
 - provide funding mechanisms for community-based school mental health providers to collaborate with school/AEA personnel.

Training -

- Broaden the current language around in-service teacher training to include “school mental health” not just trauma and suicide prevention.

Access -

- Provide greater access to social-emotional and mental health instruction to Pk-16 students through
 - adding “suicide prevention, mental health, coping and resiliency skills” to Iowa code for health classes and
 - adding the suicide hotline phone and text numbers to the back of student ID cards.

Workforce -

- Expand state funded loan forgiveness programs to include mental health professionals who provide mental health services in schools, including school social workers, mental health therapists and school psychologists.

ISMHA 2020 Policy and Practice Priorities

Analyze our current system of mental health service access and workforce roles, identify gaps, and make policy and practice recommendations to develop a comprehensive system of school mental health services to ensure students have access to services matched to their level of need, are aligned to the professional's scope of practice, and are monitored to ensure system and individual effectiveness.

State systems of access and workforce to be analyzed-

- Interconnected Systems Framework
- Community mental health providers in schools
- SISP's - (school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses)-
- Shared Dollars - social workers in schools
- "Other" - model school district programs