The School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) promotes positive outcomes for both schools and students. Instead of arresting and suspending children with behavior problems, SBDI schools support students and connect them to community-based behavioral health services.

**Core Components of SBDI**

1. **Workforce Development**
   SBDI has trained 100+ school resource officers/police officers and 5000+ teachers and staff to recognize trauma and mental health concerns and manage behavioral health crises in schools.

2. **School Policy Development and Capacity Building**
   SBDI has helped schools implement restorative practices and develop a Graduated Response Model of discipline intervention; Memorandum of Agreement between schools, local providers, and police; and other efforts including family engagement.

3. **Collaboration**
   SBDI has facilitated collaboration with law enforcement and community mental health providers so schools call Mobile Crisis (2-1-1) instead of police/school resource officers (9-1-1) to manage a behavioral health incident.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**Interest**
Does this initiative sound like it would benefit your school or district? Does your school have buy-in from the superintendent, school administrators, school resource officer and key staff members?

**Need**
Does your school have youth who exhibit behaviors that leave you no option but to call the police? Have too many students with unmet behavioral health needs? Do you desire more effective community collaboration?

**Capacity**
Do you have the time (professional development days), space, and the ability to share key data elements with project coordinators?

**OUTCOMES**

SBDI has been implemented in 65 schools across 23 Connecticut school districts. On average since 2010-2019, participating schools have reduced court referrals by 25% and have increased mobile crisis intervention service (EMPS) referrals by 55%. Many schools have sustained or even further improved these outcomes over time.

**PARTNERS**

SBDI was developed as a component of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Models for Change Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network. The Connecticut State Department of Education (“CSDE”), the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD), and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) currently fund SBDI and participate on the advisory committee. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) also serves on the advisory committee. CHDI is the Coordinating Center for SBDI.

Learn more at: ctsbdi.org