



▶ **TIER 1**
UNIVERSAL MENTAL HEALTH
PROMOTION & PREVENTION



▶ **TIER 2**
EARLY
INTERVENTIONS



▶ **TIER 3**
THERAPY &
INTENSIVE SUPPORT

About the WV ESMH Initiative

**Expanded School
Mental Health**

*...because a healthy student
is a teachable student*



OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT IN WV WILL BENEFIT FROM A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TO ACHIEVE HIS/HER FULL POTENTIAL.

This initiative is driven by a state ESMH Steering Team that originated in 2007 as a partnership and shared commitment between the WV Department of Education, the WV DHHR Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, and Marshall University School of Medicine. The team is now comprised of about 30 members representing over 20 entities statewide.

A Shared Responsibility

Schools, families and strategic community partners assume a shared responsibility to provide mental health support for ALL students. ESMH includes prevention, early intervention, and treatment in a school setting.

BENEFITS

Improved...

- access to care
- social functioning
- emotional wellbeing
- attendance
- behavior
- academic performance
- early identification and intervention

Reduced...

- barriers to learning
- discipline referrals
- stigma
- class interruptions

MORE TIME TO LEARN



Based on What Works

- ✚ The ESMH framework requires the use of evidence, research-based and promising practices.
- ✚ Leadership teams use data to identify student/school needs and select programs and services to address those needs.

**For information, see our [evidence best-practice matrix](#) (link).*

Three Tier Model OVERVIEW



School and community partners collaborate to provide all three tiers.

Tier 1: Prevention / Mental Health Promotion

ALL Students

Provided in the everyday learning environment in classroom or large group settings.

Includes:

- Social and emotional development
- Drug and alcohol education
- Suicide prevention
- Student Transition Support
- Peaceful conflict resolution
- Parent involvement
- Youth development programs
- Use of data systems to identify needs and priorities and focus areas

85-90% of students will be successful when Tier 1 services are fully in place and aligned with best practice standards; without the need for Tier 2 & 3 services.

Tier 2: Early Interventions

Students with identified academic, behavioral and emotional needs

Complementary to Tier 1:

Successful Tier 2 services reduce the need for Tier 3 services.

Includes:

- Short-term school counseling
- Skill building counseling groups
- Early identification, referral and monitoring of mood & risk behaviors
- Learning and behavioral accommodations
- Passive or active parent/guardian consent

5-15% of students need Tier 2 services when Tier 1 prevention programs are systemically implemented.

Tier 3: Intensive Interventions / Treatment

Students with pervasive behavioral and/or mental health needs

Schools must ensure Tier 1 & 2 services are provided to prevent students from moving to Tier 3

Includes:

- Formal assessments
- Mental health diagnosis
- School-based therapy
- Referral for short-term hospitalization (if needed)
- Possible IEP accommodations
- Collaboration and record sharing between agency and school
- Parent/guardian consent

5% or fewer students will require Tier 3 services when Tier 1 & 2 services are systemically implemented.

To learn more about the WV ESMH Framework go to: [WV ESMH Tool Kit #1 – Framework \(Adobe pdf\)](https://wvesmh.org).

