

# Mental Health in Schools

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## What's this project about?

The addiction and mental health system in Alberta is often described as a patchwork of programs that is fragmented and duplicated due to a lack of collaboration and coordination of services. The Child and Youth Mental Health in School Settings project is an initial step toward supporting a provincial collaborative approach to improved mental health outcomes for children and youth. This work is being completed in partnership with Policy Wise for Children & Families and the Government of Alberta.

## How will we do this?

We reviewed various programs and sources of information to gain a comprehensive understanding of child and youth mental health in school settings. Consulting with key partners helps us understand what is known about child and youth mental health pathways and to support initiatives and services in schools across Alberta. Finally, discussions were held to create a shared vision and approach to address child and youth mental health in schools. In collaboration with PolicyWise, our strategies consist of (a) developing partnerships with inter-ministerial Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSDs) councils across Alberta, (b) the development of PolicyWise reports on best practice and policy options, (c) a thorough synthesis of research evidence for the delivery of tier 1 and tier 2 mental health and addictions programs in schools, and (d) the launch of a GoA supported funding platform to assist successful RCSDs in the scale and evaluation of local integration projects.

## Where are we now?

Working collaborations with (RCSDs) councils have been established, and PolicyWise has delivered reports and recommendations which are currently undergoing a process of stakeholder consultation and revision. A literature review of research evidence is underway with over 100 peer-reviewed publications being synthesized into an evidence report. The AMH SCN has received funding from the Government of Alberta for a platform to assist RCSDs in scaling and evaluating successful local initiatives, and a call for proposals will be launched by September this year.

## Who is involved?

AMH SCN, Government of Alberta Ministry of Health, PolicyWise for Children & Families, Regional Collaborative Service Delivery councils.

For more information on this project, please contact the Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network™: [AddictionMentalHealth.SCN@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:AddictionMentalHealth.SCN@albertahealthservices.ca)

