

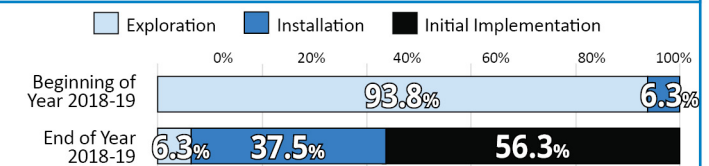
The **Kansas State Department of Education** operates the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act 84.323A State Personnel Development Grant, which funds the **Kansas School Mental Health Initiative (SMHI)**. The SMHI provides a professional development and coaching system to integrate school mental health and trauma-informed practices within the Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports and Alignment framework. By leveraging school-community resources and facilitating collaboration between school districts and community mental health providers, the SMHI aims to improve outcomes for students and families in alignment with the **Kansas State Board of Education** outcome of social-emotional growth.

## TRAINING AND COACHING ON EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Throughout the 2018-19 school year, the SMHI provided professional development, including training and coaching, to an initial cohort of participating school districts and their corresponding community mental health centers. Participating districts made substantial progress throughout the year as measured by clearly defined phases of implementation on the eight components of the *School Mental Health Implementation Guide* (Adapted from the *Interconnected Systems Framework Implementation Inventory*, 2016) including implementation of trauma-responsive environments, individual intervention planning and progress monitoring, and referral protocols.

### BEGINNING & END OF YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

Percentage of Components Rated at Each Stage of Implementation



## RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND FAMILIES

In addition to the training and coaching provided to District-Community Leadership Teams, the SMHI is creating numerous, publicly available resources to assist all Kansas educators, community mental health providers, and families in supporting the mental well-being of children and youth. These free resources include guidance documents and templates to facilitate implementation, extensive online learning

**TASN SMHI**  
— has added **73 resources**  
to the **TASN website**  
that have been accessed  
**2,640 times**

modules, and training and informational materials for families (developed in collaboration with the **Kansas Parent Information Resource Center [KPIRC]** and **Families Together, Inc.**).

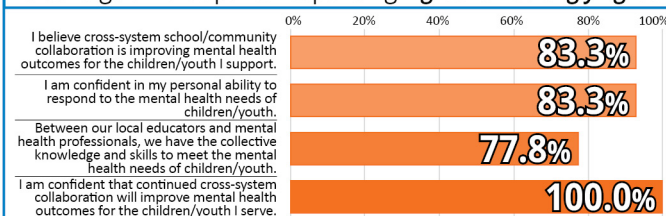
- School Mental Health: A Resource for Kansas School Communities <https://ksdetasn.org/smhi/school-mental-health-a-resource-for-kansas-school-communities>
- Understanding ACEs & Resiliency <https://ksdetasn.org/resources/2157>
- Stress and Early Brain Growth <https://ksdetasn.org/resources/2167>
- How Can You Help? Stress and Childhood <https://ksdetasn.org/resources/2117>

## HIGH DEGREES OF TEACHER EFFICACY

An important component of successful implementation of tiered mental health supports for students is the efficacy of the educators and community partners involved. During the 2018-19 school year, 18 leadership team members working with the SMHI, comprising both school and community mental health staff members, responded to a survey addressing both their self-efficacy and collective efficacy in supporting students' mental well-being.

### EFFICACY OF EDUCATORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Percentage of Participants Responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree"



Following one SMHI training, participants were asked to indicate the frequency with which they engage in personal well-being practices (a strategy for sustaining efficacy). Of the 12 respondents, 58% indicated engaging in personal well-being practices on a daily basis prior to the training while 75% indicated engaging in daily personal well-being practices following the training.

## POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATES

Positive school climate and culture are essential to supporting the mental health needs of students. During the 2018-19 school year, 396 students in participating elementary schools completed the *School Connections Snapshot* (Gaumer Erickson, Noonan, Monroe, & Cooper, 2019). The vast majority of these students reported feeling safe and well-supported in their schools.

### SCHOOL CONNECTIONS SNAPSHOT

Percentage of 396 Students Responding "Yes" or "Mostly Yes"

