



# Behavioral Health Student Services Act: Administrative and Evaluation Funds

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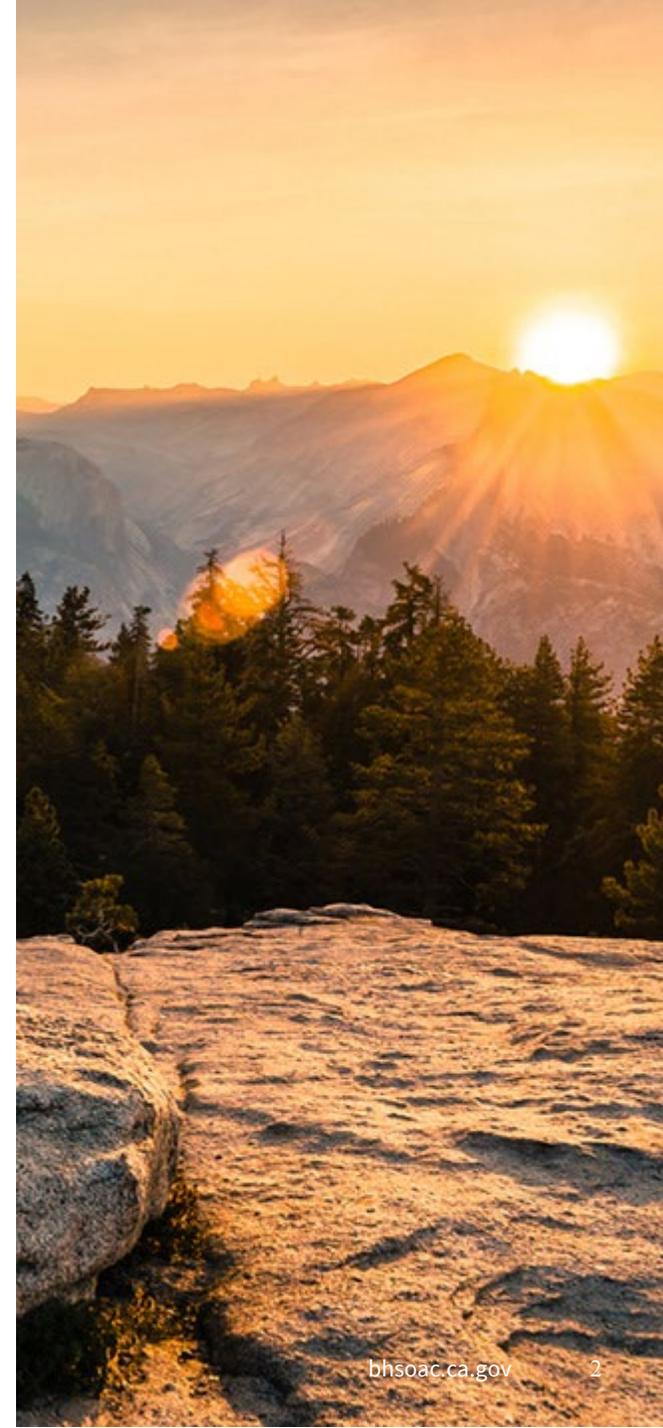
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# Goal

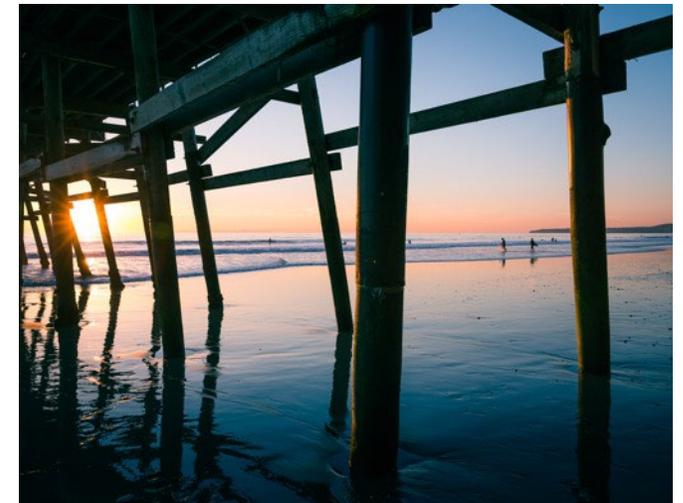
To provide plans for available Behavioral Health Student Services Act (BHSSA) funds to ensure alignment with Commission priorities:

- \$5.1 million in one-time BHSSA administrative funds
- \$9.2 million in one-time BHSSA evaluation funds



# Solutions

- ✓ **Grants:** \$280 million to foster system change
- ✓ **Technical assistance:** Capacity building and sustainability
- ✓ **Evaluation and learning**



# BHSSA one-time administrative and evaluation funds

## ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS

- \$25 million in one-time BHSSA administrative funds.
- Most of these funds have been earmarked or encumbered.
- **\$5.1 million needs to be encumbered by June 30, 2026.**

## EVALUATION FUNDS

- \$16.6 million in one-time BHSSA funds to support evaluation.
- \$7.4 million encumbered (WestEd and local evaluator stipends).
- **\$9.2 million needs to be encumbered by June 30, 2026.**

# Considerations for BHSSA administrative and evaluation funds

Administrative and evaluation funds **currently** support:

- Staff/contracted positions relevant to BHSSA
- Technical assistance contracts
- Software and IT infrastructure (e.g. SAS, Tableau)
- WestEd Evaluation

Recommend encumbering remaining funds to support:

- Grant management software
- Additional technical assistance (TA) in the form of statewide suicide prevention training (amend current TA contract)
- Substance use disorder (SUD) pilots for youth who are justice-involved and at risk of school failure
- School Behavioral Health Performance Management Systems



# Considerations for BHSSA administrative funds

# 1. Technical assistance for suicide prevention training

**Goal:** Develop online suicide prevention training modules that are available at no cost to teachers/staff, parents, and students to identify, support, and refer students who might be experiencing thoughts of suicide.

**Purpose:** Add funding and a new scope of work to the existing CBH contract with the Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS).

*Currently, CARS provides training and technical assistance to 57 BHSSA grantees and their partners.*

**Amount:** Up to \$1.5 million in BHSSA administrative funds.

# 1. Technical assistance for suicide prevention training (continued)

## Scope of work

- Convene subject matter experts to develop online suicide prevention training modules for teachers/staff, parents, and students.
- Develop 3 to 6 training modules that are trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and developmentally appropriate.
- Work with state and local agencies to support the dissemination of training modules.
- Identify additional needs for suicide prevention capacity building and training with CBH partners.

# 1. Technical assistance for suicide prevention training (continued)

## Timeline

- BHSSA administrative funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2026.
- The CARS contract would be amended in early spring to incorporate the new Scope of Work.
- The project start/end date would be May 1, 2026 – October 31, 2027 (18 months).

## 2. SUD services integration

**Goal:** Align BHSSA with BHSA to increase access to SUD services for school-aged youth.

**Propose:** Amend grant agreements to pilot SUD services integration with the delivery of school mental health services.

**Amount:** \$3.6 million in BHSSA administrative funds.

**Eligibility:** Fund up to 5 or 6 existing partnerships to plan for and integrate substance use prevention and early intervention services to address the interconnected risk factors that drive SUD in adolescents.

## 2. SUD services integration (continued)

**Scope of work** (could include, but is not limited to)

- Combine mental health and substance use education for an integrated workforce development approach.
- Enhance mental health and substance use screening and early interventions that are coordinated and integrated (breaking down silos).
- Foster an integrated school climate that embraces the intersection of mental health and SUD.
- Engage community (partnerships and family outreach).
- Coordinate with California-wide already existing funding streams, initiatives, and legislative mandates.

## 2. SUD services integration (continued)

### Timeline

- BHSSA administrative funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2026.
- Gauge selection criteria, interest, and capacity.
- Anticipated project start/end dates: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028 (two years).



# Considerations for BHSSA evaluation funds

### 3. School behavioral health performance management systems

**Requirement:** Existing BHSSA law requires the Commission to develop metrics, and a performance outcomes monitoring system for publicly reporting on the performance of services provided.

- Barriers in local infrastructure and capacity, coupled with variability in service provision, have hindered this effort.

**Goal:** To develop a comprehensive framework and tool to assess, track, and improve the quality, effectiveness, and sustainability of school behavioral health services.

### 3. School behavioral health performance management systems (continued)

**Propose:** Establish an RFP to support the establishment of school behavioral health performance management systems to monitor implementation and measure outcomes.

**Amount:** \$9 million available in BHSSA evaluation funds.

**Eligibility:** Fund performance management in up to six local education agencies that participate in the BHSSA grant program.

# 3. School behavioral health performance management systems (continued)

## Scope of work

1. Establish a School Behavioral Health Performance Management System (or adopt/adapt an existing system). Key components include the ability to:
  - Document resources across tiers of services and supports.
  - Access system strengths, areas for improvement, and gaps in service delivery.
  - Establish goals and metrics to evaluate system performance.
  - Track and evaluate student academic/behavioral health outcomes.
  - Use data-driven strategies for quality improvement.
2. For each grantee, CBH would pilot test the development and implementation of behavioral health performance management in three schools.
3. Develop a final plan to scale up the system in other districts and schools.

# 3. School behavioral health performance management systems (continued)

## Timeline

- BHSSA evaluation funds need to be encumbered by June 30, 2026.
- RFP to be developed.
- Anticipated project start/end date: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028 (two years)

# Next steps

Commission members and public stakeholder discussion:

## *Administrative*

- Grant management software - \$200,000
- Technical assistance for suicide prevention training - \$1.5 million
  - Amend BHSSA TA provider contract with CARS
- SUD services integration pilots - \$3.6 million

## *Evaluation*

- School behavioral health performance management systems - \$9 million
  - Develop RFP

# Motion

That the Commission approve the procurement of grant management software for an estimated amount of \$200,000 in BHSSA administrative funds.

# Motion

That the Commission approve amending the BHSSA TA provider (Center for Applied Research Solutions) contract (contract #24MHSOAC061) to provide an additional \$1.5 million in BHSSA administrative funds for technical assistance for suicide prevention training.

# Motion

That the Commission approve the disbursement of \$3.6 million in BHSSA administrative funds for substance use disorder services integration pilots through grant amendments based on grantee capacity and interest.

# Motion

That the Commission approves the BHSSA procurement outline plan for school behavioral health performance management systems not to exceed \$9 million in evaluation funds, and authorizes the Executive Director to conduct the competitive solicitation, issue a Notice of Intent to Award to the highest-ranked proposer(s), and execute all resulting contract agreements in accordance with the approved outline plan and applicable procurement laws.