

Florida AWARE Contacts

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What is the Florida AWARE program?

The purpose of the Florida AWARE program is to build state capacity to support districts in promoting mental wellness, and ensuring that Florida youth who experience mental health problems have timely access to effective and coordinated supports and services. The program focus is on long-term systems change for integrating school and community-based mental health supports within a multi-tiered service delivery framework based on a shared youth, family, school, and community vision. The program also provides training to youth serving adults using the Youth Mental Health First Aid program. At the state level, partners from multiple youth serving systems and organizations serve on a State Management Team that provides oversight and leadership. At the local level, three Florida AWARE districts (Duval, Pinellas, Polk) are developing and implementing a multi-tiered system of mental health supports that will serve as a model for future scale up.

Florida AWARE Goals

Goal 1

Increase youth access to mental health services and supports within a multi-tiered framework (e.g., *Interconnected Systems Framework; Barrett, Eber, & Weist, 2013*)

Goal 2

Increase implementation of evidence-based, culturally responsive mental health practices

Goal 3

Increase awareness of mental health issues within our youth, families, schools and communities

Florida AWARE Program Priorities are to Support Implementation of:

- A multi-tiered framework of mental health supports across a variety of organizations and providers
- A streamlined cross-organizational data system to inform mental health supports and services
- Procedures for identifying, accessing, and/or maximizing existing resources to support mental health outcomes
- A streamlined efficient and effective system for youth and families to access mental health supports and services
- Awareness of mental health issues by youth, families, community members and school personnel
- Tested and proven to be effective mental health practices designed to meet the needs of diverse populations
- Professional development to increase knowledge and skills to provide effective mental health supports and services

Florida AWARE is a State Education Agency "Now is the Time" Program, awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services with a subagreement to the University of South Florida and the three partnering districts (Duval, Pinellas, and Polk).

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Florida AWARE State Management Team Partners

- » Office of Independent Education and School Choice/Charter Schools, Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)
- » Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, FLDOE
- » Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, Office of Safe Schools, FLDOE
- » Bureau of School Improvement, FLDOE
- » Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support, FLDOE
- » Department of Children and Families
- » Department of Juvenile Justice
- » Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resource System (FDLRS)
- » Florida Department of Health
- » Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection
- » Healthy Schools, Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support
- » NITT-Healthy Transitions, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.
- » The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET)
- » Florida's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Project: A Multi-Tiered Support System
- » Florida's Problem Solving & Response to Intervention Project

Florida AWARE Local Educational Agencies & Community Partners

Duval

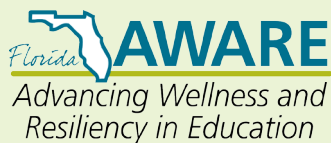
- » Federation of Families of Northeast Florida
- » Partnership for Child Health

Pinellas

- » Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services
- » National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

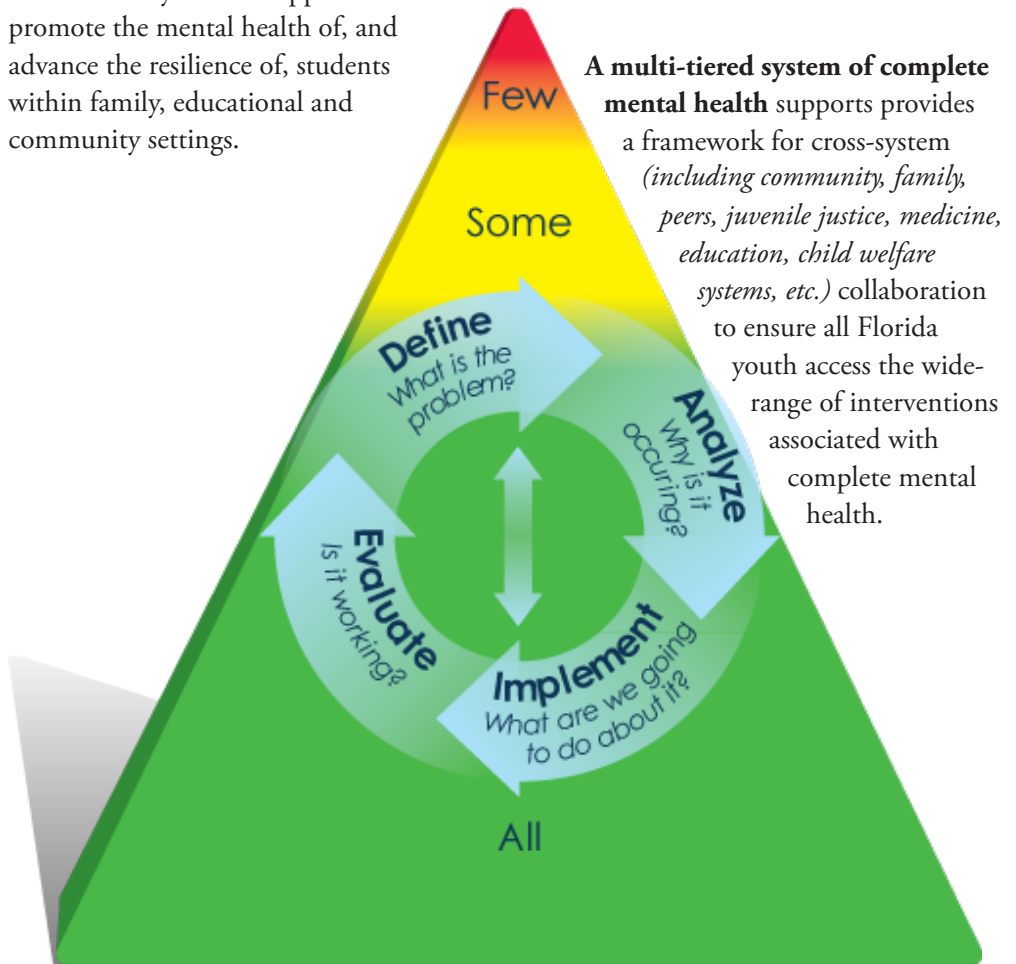
Polk

- » Heartland for Children
- » Polk County Indigent Healthcare, Polk County BoCC



Florida AWARE Vision

Florida will develop and sustain integrated, multi-tiered system of supports that promote the mental health of, and advance the resilience of, students within family, educational and community settings.



Six Evidence Based Components

Florida AWARE's integrated multi-tiered system of mental health supports builds upon six critical evidence-based components:

- ▲ **District and state level leadership** to prioritize the Florida AWARE vision and mission, oversee implementation, and allocate resources
- ▲ **Capacity building and infrastructure development** including workforce development through training and ongoing systems and practice level coaching
- ▲ **Interdisciplinary collaboration and communication** guided by youth and family voice
- ▲ **Data-based problem solving processes** for a broad range of complete mental health outcomes for youth
- ▲ **Data evaluation systems** for comprehensive screening and progress monitoring for effectiveness and fidelity
- ▲ **Multiple tiers of evidence-based, culturally responsive practices and programs** to support complete mental health