



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 2, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent ^{KG}
Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: TRAILS Application Now Open

Section 31p of the state school aid act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 includes an appropriation to provide free, multi-tiered school mental health training and resources delivered by [TRAILS](#).

TRAILS trains school professionals in the evidence-based mental health practices of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and mindfulness and builds a network by pairing these trained professionals with TRAILS coaches. There is \$5.4 million available in equal amounts for intermediate school districts (ISDs) that apply on behalf of their constituent districts.

The application is available in the [Grants Electronic Management System \(GEMS\)](#) and **will remain open until September 16, 2021**. The application can also be found at: <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i2d1taav>.

Successful applicant ISDs will work collaboratively with the TRAILS staff to identify 10 local school buildings to participate. Staff in those buildings will receive professional development training, resources, and implementation support from the TRAILS program. TRAILS strengthens existing school mental health models, promotes sustainability, and complements other health services funding, including sections 31n and 31o of the state school aid act.

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TRAILS programming is available spanning three distinct tiers of service delivery:

Tier 1: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) – The TRAILS SEL curriculum is designed to strengthen the five core SEL competencies endorsed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). The material is appropriate for all K-12 students and may be delivered in person or virtually. Materials include comprehensive lesson plans, student handouts, activities, and parent/guardian communications.

Tier 2: Targeted Intervention – TRAILS provides training, resources, and implementation support to equip school mental health professionals (e.g., school social workers, counselors, and psychologists) to deliver evidence-based mental health services for students in grades 3-12 who exhibit mental health concerns. Materials include single- and multi-session agendas, stand-alone clinical resources, recommended assessments, and materials to share with teachers, families, and other stakeholders.

Tier 3: Suicide Risk Management – Schools play an important role in recognizing and responding to student signs of suicide risk, yet coordination between the school environment and community resources can be difficult. TRAILS provides training and resources to improve communication and care coordination across settings and can assist with engaging in suicide awareness and risk management training for staff.

TRAILS staff will work with MDE staff to coordinate delivery of services to ISDs, with an expectation that programming is available between fall 2021 and spring 2024 to all ISDs that apply. Further questions can be directed to Scott Hutchins at HutchinsS1@michigan.gov or 517-241-7099.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors