
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2022

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2021



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Children's Mental Health School-Based Training and Support

Purpose

Governor Kim Reynolds established the [Children's System State Board](#) in April 2018 to develop and implement the State of Iowa Children's Mental Health System. The Board prepared a [strategic plan](#) and identified schools as a support to the system.

The area education agencies (AEAs) will be providing professional development including Youth Mental Health First Aid training, which is a nationally recognized curriculum. The curriculum teaches educators about risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in students and promotes early intervention to support students who need assistance. Regional AEAs will use additional funding to meet the needs of the schools within their jurisdiction, including working with school-based teams, creating therapeutic classrooms, and reviewing the benefits of operationally sharing social workers.

Funding

[House File 758](#) (Education Appropriations Act), enacted during the 2019 Legislative Session, appropriated \$2.1 million for AEAs to provide mental health awareness training for educators and schools. The funds appropriated are to be used as follows:

- \$1.2 million for mental health awareness training for educators and schools.
- \$750,000 for identifying approaches to meet mental health needs of schools and strengthen community support for students.
- \$150,000 to create a clearinghouse of mental health resources for use by schools and community providers.

In FY 2022, the appropriation was increased to \$3.2 million with the funding to be used by area education agencies to provide mental health awareness training for educators and support mental health needs of students. The FY 2022 appropriation included an allocation of \$84,000 to be used to implement a children's grief and loss rural pilot program.

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More Information

Iowa's Area Education Agencies: iowaaea.org

Iowa Department of Education: educateiowa.gov

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