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Coalition for Expanding
**School-Based
Mental Health**
— in Wisconsin —

Coalition Celebrates JFC Support for Student Mental Health

The Coalition for Expanding School-Based Mental Health in Wisconsin celebrated action by the Joint Finance Committee yesterday to build upon the Governor's budget initiatives to enhance access to school-based mental health services across the state.

In addition to the Governor's significant proposals to fund training, school staff and targeted grants, JFC allocated additional resources to the proposed mental health collaboration grants – providing a total of \$3.25 million in new grants for schools across the state beginning in 2018-19.

In various school communities across the state, expanded school-based mental health (ESMH) is integrating clinical services and consultation into the existing mental health-related services and supports available in schools.

Guided by strong and diverse family and youth voice, quality ESMH efforts augment the work of teachers, school psychologists, social workers, counselors and nurses through clinical therapy and consultation for students with more complex mental health challenges. ESMH also enhances and integrates school support services and community-based mental health.

"The infusion of grants for ESMH through the state budget will enable more schools in more underserved regions of the state to grow quality school-based mental health initiatives," emphasized Chris Crowe, Coalition chair and Director/Principal of North Star Academy in Cameron. "The northern region of our state struggles with inadequate access to mental health services and providers, a resource shortage that has been even further stretched by the current opioid and methamphetamine epidemic. The action of JFC today will help build resources in our schools to ensure our students timely access to services and begin to lay a foundation for future growth in the mental health provider workforce in this area."

Crowe continued: "ESMH helps our students with complex mental health needs stabilize for optimum engagement in learning, while benefitting all students and teaching staff by building a school setting that is trauma-sensitive, committed to the reduction of stigma and maximizing opportunities for teaching and learning."

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The Coalition for Expanding School-Based Mental Health in Wisconsin is a statewide coalition whose mission is to advance and support expanded, comprehensive and integrated mental health services within the school setting through school, home, and community partnerships.