



Mental Health Service Professional
Demonstration Grant
Rutgers University

Mr. Larry Abramowitz

Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Rutgers University

Overview

- U.S. Department of Education federal initiative to expand nationwide student access to school-based mental health services
- \$3.3 million GSE-led School Counseling Prevention to Intervention project
- Expand essential preventative and responsive mental health services by actively reducing student-to-school-counselor ratios in some of the region's fastest-growing and most ethnically diverse school districts
- According to the American School Counselor Association, the student-to-school-counselor ratio in New Jersey is 308:1, exceeding the association's recommendation of 250:1 and limiting access to mental health services and necessary resources for students



Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Rutgers University

Grant Goals/Priorities

Competitive Priority 1:

- Diversify mental health providers (school counselors) in each education agency, specifically targeting culturally, ethnically, racially, and linguistically diverse counselor trainees.

Competitive Priority 2:

- Promote inclusive practices through a specialized curriculum, including modules focusing on evidence-supported strategies for diverse student populations.

Competitive Priority 3:

- Conduct recruiting efforts that prioritize underrepresented trainees from participating agencies, Rutgers University, and other minority serving institutions.



Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Rutgers University

Grant Details/Plan

- 30 new school counselors enrolled in the GSE's school counseling master's program who will be trained and placed over a five-year period in:
 - New Brunswick
 - Rahway
 - Franklin Township
 - Neptune
- The first cohort of school counselors will begin the program in 2026.
- 9 School Counselors will train in Rahway over the following 5 year period.
- 700 hours of practicum/Internship experience

Rahway Academy * Grover Cleveland Elementary School * Franklin Elementary School

