



UNITED FOR YOUTH VISION 2030

A BLUEPRINT FOR SCHOOL AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH WELL-BEING

San Mateo County's school-aged children and youth face increasing challenges to their behavioral health and well-being. These challenges have been compounded by long-standing socioeconomic inequities and the COVID-19 pandemic. While San Mateo County schools, public agencies, and private organizations, offer an array of services and programs to support well-being and behavioral health, youth and families continually report difficulty accessing the services they need.

In 2023, the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities launched United for Youth in partnership with more than 20 public agencies and community-based organizations and with input from youth and caregivers. The initiative's goals were to understand the landscape of both the challenges and supports around youth behavioral health and well-being and to develop a plan of action that aligns strategies, prioritizes collaboration, maximizes available and new funding, and embraces accountability to improve access and equity.

The resulting United for Youth: Vision 2030 plan is centered on five priorities that are relevant countywide but focus on populations and geographies experiencing behavioral health services inequities. A list of these priorities is below and the strategies are on the back of this page.



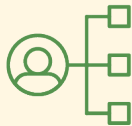
PRIORITY ONE:

Expand Prevention and Education Efforts that Promote Social Emotional Well-Being



PRIORITY TWO:

Improve Early Identification of Youth Behavioral Health Needs and Facilitate Access to Services to Address These Needs



PRIORITY THREE:

Facilitate Greater Access to a Full Range of Youth-Centered Behavioral Health Treatment Services



PRIORITY FOUR:

Invest in the Existing and Emerging Behavioral Health Workforce and Promote Diversity and Sustainability



PRIORITY FIVE:

Leverage Available Public and Private Funding and Other Resources, Including Technology

Learn more at www.smcoe.org/U4Y



PRIORITIES	STRATEGIES
<p>1. Expand prevention and education efforts that promote social-emotional well-being</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Provide consistent, high-quality social emotional learning (SEL) programming⁷ and other prevention programs across schools and grade levels and in other settings. 1.2 Support schools in developing and implementing trauma-informed policies, practices, and environments that are safe, welcoming, inclusive, and promote belonging and well-being. 1.3 Help bridge life transitions for key developmental periods (e.g., middle school, transitional age youth) and those with greatest needs. 1.4 Build behavioral health education, awareness, and stigma reduction through public campaigns. 1.5 Provide families and caregivers with more tools to support child and youth development, especially for those with behavioral health needs.
<p>2. Improve early identification of youth behavioral health needs and facilitate access to services to address these needs</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Educate youth, providers, schools, and families on behavioral health service availability and how and when to seek help. 2.2 Use validated screening tools and methods to identify children and youth who would benefit from behavioral health services. 2.3 Utilize available information (e.g., attendance) to identify young people who may need support and help them navigate toward services. 2.4 Promote access to an expanded range of providers (e.g., peer providers, wellness coaches) for children and youth. 2.5 Improve coordination and alignment among systems and simplify referral processes.
<p>3. Facilitate greater access to a full range of youth-centered behavioral health treatment services</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Provide outpatient behavioral health services at more locations and times to increase access. While place-based services are ideal, virtual services may also offer a feasible and sustainable solution. 3.2 Expand the capacity and range of local behavioral health services to include outpatient services, individual and family therapy, substance use disorder treatment, and crisis and hospitalization services. 3.3 Support improvements to the acute crisis intervention system for children and youth.
<p>4. Invest in the existing and emerging behavioral health workforce and promote diversity and sustainability</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Improve training and interdisciplinary education for school staff, child- and youth-serving behavioral health clinicians, health care providers, social services staff, and other youth-serving practitioners so they can better support youth behavioral health and well-being. 4.2 Cultivate greater workforce diversity and new career pathways for adults working with youth and/or those providing behavioral health services. 4.3 Support efforts to retain qualified, culturally-relevant child and youth-serving staff. 4.4 Make strategic increases in the number and capacity of the behavioral health workforce.
<p>5. Leverage available public and private funding and other resources, including technology</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Ensure full use of technology and technology solutions to address youth behavioral health needs. 5.2 Maximize school and behavioral health provider participation in Medi-Cal and private insurance networks to increase the number of behavioral health providers accessible to San Mateo County children and youth. 5.3 Pursue additional public and private funding through coordinated countywide efforts.