

Hope • Healing • Resilience



## School Connections Program

Early Intervention  
+ Teacher Support  
Healthy Schools



### Bridging the Gap Between Home and School

DFYF's School Connections program provides mental and behavioral health treatment and prevention services for schools throughout Franklin County. Collaboration with the youth's caregiving team - including parents, guardians, and teachers - are incorporated into mental health treatment plans to support students in the school and home environment.

DFYF's partnership with schools is a great support to teachers in managing their classrooms and ability to refer students for needed services. We work with students who are experiencing behavioral, emotional, or crisis situations impacting their academic performance. Program details:

- Each partner school has a DFYF clinician assigned to them who is responsible for providing interventions to those students who have been identified in need of services. Clinicians meet with student in schools and provide limited home-based services during breaks.
- Referrals are accepted from school administration, school staff, or through parent request and can be submitted to the DFYF clinician at your school or through our Intake Department at 614.294.2661. Parents/caregivers are informed that their child is being referred to the School Connections program by the school principal or a contact at the school.
- Clinician will meet with caregivers and student to identify needs through a mental health assessment and establish goals on an Individualized Treatment Plan.
- Typical length of counseling is 3-6 months depending on the need.
- Medicaid will cover fees for eligible students. If the student is not eligible for Medicaid, services may be provided on a sliding fee scale based on a financial assessment and private insurance.
- DFYF strongly supports a collaborative relationship with the school and family to assist students in meeting their full potential.

#### Prevention/support services available with additional funding

- Teacher consultations, classroom management strategies, trauma-informed practices, and staff professional development.
- Brief individual and group interventions to support social and emotional learning and regulation.
- Collaboration to determine need for counseling referral.

#### Elementary School

- Raising self-esteem & building confidence
- Managing feelings
- Processing trauma
- Building life & social skills
- Improving school performance & behavior
- Dealing with grief & loss issues
- Building relationships through positive interactions with family & peers
- Learning positive coping skills

#### Middle, High School

- Raising self-esteem & building confidence
- Managing feelings in a healthy way (anger, sadness, anxiety)
- Reducing self-harm behaviors
- Dealing with grief & loss issues (death, divorce, relocation)
- Improving school performance & behavior
- Resolving conflict
- Learning positive decision-making (including avoiding peer pressure)
- Processing trauma

For more information, contact Nate Toops at 614.294.2661 or [ntoops@dfyf.org](mailto:ntoops@dfyf.org)