Project AWARE • Tulsa Thrive: Student Wellness

Overview

Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) was awarded SAMHSA's Project AWARE grant in September 2023. The Tulsa AWARE initiative will serve all children and youth at TPS through increasing mental health skills and literacy, promoting positive mental health development, and connecting students and families to treatment and supports which are culturally relevant and foster resilience building. Through Tulsa AWARE, TPS has formalized partnerships with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Healthy Minds Policy Initiative, and multiple local mental health service providers. The initiative will facilitate understanding of mental health, screen students for mental health issues, refer students to appropriate support when needed, and provide families and community partners with tools and support.

Project AWARE funding helps school districts, states, and tribes to implement the multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) framework to organize the delivery of mental health services to students. MTSS is a three-tiered model which provides levels of prevention and intervention for all students based on their current levels of need and has been used for decades to support students' math, reading, and behavioral skills.

Contact

J. Beth Hinkle, M.S.
Project AWARE Program Manager
hinklja@tulsaschools.org

TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Quick facts

Grant program name

Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)

Awarding agency

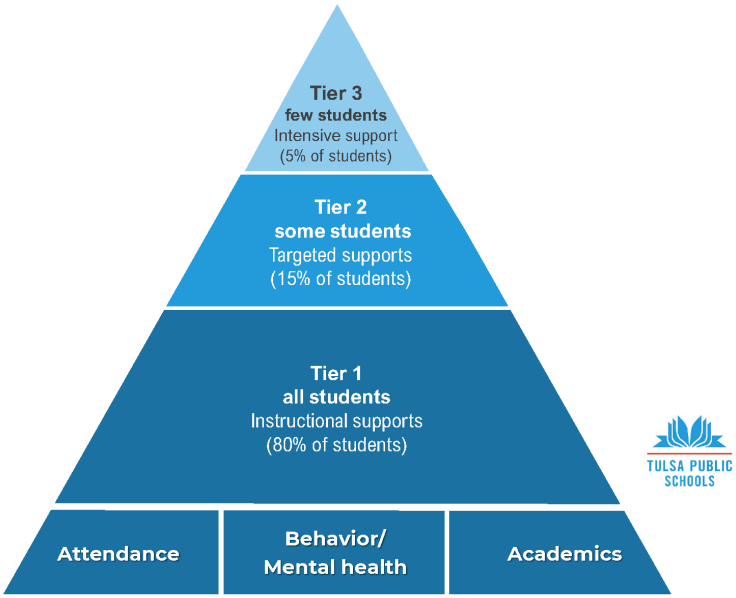
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Project period

9/30/2023 through 9/29/2028

Purpose

Serve all children and youth at TPS through increasing mental health skills and literacy, promoting positive mental health development, and connecting students and families to treatment and supports which are culturally relevant and foster resilience building.



Advisory board

To ensure Project AWARE planning and implementation reflect the needs and input of the TPS community, TPS will be establishing an Advisory Board. This Board will include key stakeholders from TPS, OSDE, and ODMHSAS, as well as family members, school personnel, and students. Additional partners from a variety of local community organizations and child and family-serving agencies will join the Board to offer their unique perspectives on supporting youth mental health in our community. During the first year, the Board will meet monthly to learn more about planned programming under AWARE, offer feedback to TPS, and review student mental health outcome data. TPS has extended an invitation to partners to join the Advisory Board and include:

- Boys & Girls Club
- City of Tulsa
- Counseling & Recovery Services of Oklahoma
- CREOKS Behavioral Health Services
- Family & Children's Services
- Family members
- GRAND Mental Health
- Healthy Minds Policy Initiative
- Juvenile Justice
- Oklahoma Family Network
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Oklahoma State Department of Education
- Terence Crutcher Foundation
- TPS school personnel
- TPS youth
- Tulsa Black Mental Health Alliance