

MEMORANDUM

To: All District and School-Level Administrators and Teachers
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, *Director, DCSD Grants & Partnerships*
Through: Dr. Cherisse M. Campbell, *Chief, Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships*
Date: June 12, 2026
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday: Notice. Talk. Act®: Free Mental Health Training Program to Spot Student Difficulty*

Professional, peer-reviewed mental health training helps trusted adults in schools recognize student distress earlier, respond with care, and connect students to appropriate support before concerns become crises.

School and district leaders are encouraged to explore this week's opportunity: the [Notice. Talk. Act.® at School Mental Health Professional Development Program](#), offered by the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. This no-cost training is designed for elementary, middle, high, and alternative education settings and equips school staff with a practical three-step framework:

Notice early behavioral, academic, or social warning signs.

Talk with students in a supportive, respectful, and stigma-free way.

Act by connecting students to appropriate school-based or community supports.

Schools can benefit from this program in several meaningful ways:

- **Earlier support for students:** Staff can better recognize changes in attendance, behavior, mood, academic performance, or peer interactions before concerns escalate.
- **Stronger student engagement:** When students feel seen, heard, and supported, they are more likely to attend school, participate in class, and stay connected to learning.
- **Improved classroom climate:** Teachers and staff gain a shared language and practical tools for responding to student distress with care rather than confusion or frustration.
- **Better referral pathways:** The framework helps schools connect students more efficiently with counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists, and community-based supports.
- **A broader safety net:** The training is intended for all adults who support students, including administrators, teachers, coaches, front office staff, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, and after-school program providers.

This opportunity aligns with [DCSD's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan](#) by strengthening safe, supportive learning environments, improving student engagement, and expanding school, family, and community partnerships that help students thrive.

Interested schools and departments are encouraged to review the *Notice. Talk. Act.® at School Mental Health Professional Development Program* [HERE](#) and consider submitting an interest form [HERE](#).

Thank you for continuing to identify opportunities that support the whole child, strengthen student achievement, and help every DCSD school build a more connected, compassionate, and responsive learning community.

The Department of Grants and Partnerships encourages DCSD educators to pursue this opportunity and bring bold, student-centered ideas to life. Remember to follow the [DCSD Grant Guidelines](#) and coordinate with the [Department of Grants and Partnerships](#) on next steps. To begin your application, have questions answered, or get experienced advice, feel free to email us at grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org.

[Dr. Marcia Oglesby](#), *Director*
[Ms. Tanya Arrington](#), *Strategic Partners Manager*

[Dr. Donald Porter](#), *Lead Grant Strategist*
[Ms. Demetric Crittle](#), *Coordinator*

Looking for more grant inspiration and options? The latest, fully searchable issue of the Monthly Education Grants Alert (MEGA) is available [HERE](#).

Good luck!