

Mental
Health in
Schools



### Our Time Together

- 1) Overview
- 2) Welcoming Activity
- 3) Research
- 4) Mental Health Descriptors
- 5) Collaboration
- 6) Mental Health in Schools



7) The Intersection of Mental Health, SEL, & PBIS





**Move to the music** - When the music stops, find a partner and discuss:



- 1) What is mental health?
- 2) How is mental health addressed?



Mental Health: What does the research tell us?

Teens are experiencing unprecedented challenges and the current system cannot meet their needs.





of teens experience persistent sadness or hopelessness.



### 11-17 year olds

have been more likely than any other age group to score for moderate to severe symptoms of **anxiety** and **depression** during the pandemic.



### 1 in 11

high school students reported **attempting suicide** in 2021.



Teens are experiencing unprecedented challenges and the current system cannot meet their needs.





80%
of youth with mental illness do not receive treatment.



50% of US counties have no mental health provider.



\$70 B cost of teen suicide attempts in the United States in 2019.



only 4%
of practicing
psychologists are
child and adolescent
practitioners.





### How do we remove barriers to learning?

- Provide a continuum of services:
  - School
  - Family
  - Community
- Utilize a systematic approach:
  - Effective collaboration (teams)
  - Proactive, tiered interventions (SEL, PBIS)
  - Effective use of resources (using data)
  - Developing community partnerships (mental health services, youth organizations)







### Who is responsible for addressing mental health? Everyone.

- Through a community of care (culture and climate, SEL, PBIS)
- Connecting to psychiatric care and therapy services in and out of schools
- Through consultation for schools, teachers, administrators, and staff
- Organizing student focus groups to better understand needs and how we can support them





What are the mental health descriptors?

### **Anxiety**







#### Symptoms/ **Behaviors**

- Refusal to join activities
- Isolating behaviors
- Many physical complaints
- Excessive worry

#### **Educational Implications**

- Difficulties completing the work
- Worry so much they may take longer to finish work
- Getting behind in the work creates a cycle of fear of failure, increased anxiety, and avoidance which can lead to more absences

#### **Instructional Strategies**

What strategies work well?



### Instructional Strategies



#### Social:

- Safe environment
- PBIS Structures
- Positive Teacher-Student Relationships
- Attendance
- Parents

#### **Academic:**

- Flexible Deadlines
- Assignment Check
- Learning Styles
- Daily Schedule
- Follow-Through
- Workload
- Schedule
- Technology







### **ADHD**









#### Symptoms/Behaviors

#### Inattentive -

- Short attention span
- Problems with organization
- Trouble paying attention
- Easily distracted

#### Hyperactivity -

- Fidget and squirm
- Difficulty staying seated
- On-the-go as if driven by a motor
- Run around and climb on things excessively

#### **Educational Implications**

- Have trouble staying on task or finishing assignments
- May blurt out answers before the teacher can finish asking questions
- Face social challenges because their peers may perceive them as immature and annoying
- May see themselves as bad, lazy, and powerless to do any better

# Instructional Strategies

What strategies would you suggest?



### Instructional Strategies



#### Social:

- Consistent Structure
- Instructions in Steps
- Off-Task Code
- Self-Monitoring
- Stress Self-Management
- Social Skills
- Positive Feedback

#### **Academic:**

- Assignment Check
- Instructions in Steps
- Learning Styles







### **Behavioral Challenges**

(ODD, CD, AD, DMDD, PTSD)





- Sudden, unprovoked anger
- Arguing with authority figures
- Defiance or refusal to comply with rules or requests
- Deliberately annoys others
- Blaming others for their misbehavior
- Frequently resentful and angry
- Destruction of property
- Irritable mood
- Poor peer relationships



#### **Educational Implications**

- May consistently challenge class rules, refuse assignments, and fight with other students.
- Experience increasing peer rejection due to their poor social skills and aggression
- May lack the skills to solve social conflicts.





# Instructional Strategies

What strategies work well?



### Instructional Strategies

#### Social:

- Student-Teacher Relationship Building
- Power Struggles
- Planned Ignoring
- Rapport
- Choices
- Classroom Rules
- Social Skills
- Consistency & Routine

#### **Academic:**

- Choices
- Schedule
- Consistency & Routine
- Transitions









Supporting the Needs of Students





#### **Community of Care**

A framework for implementing a continuum of academic, social-emotional, and mental health supports

#### The goals of the MTSS framework:

- Addressing behaviors that prevent classroom engagement or lead to the removal of students from their classroom setting
- Connect students with targeted interventions that can help support their social-emotional and mental health needs
- Focus on students needs for academic achievement and growth
- Supporting our families and the wellness of staff

MTSS Behavioral Supports	Student	Educator	School	Parents & Community
Tier 1				
Tier 2				
Tier 3				

### 4 Corners Collaboration



**Step 1)** Record your thoughts on the sticky notes:

What does your assigned MTSS tier look like?

**Step 2)** Gather and collaborate at the poster matching your card:

Share your thoughts!





New Haven Public Schools' Approach to Supporting Students

### **NHPS** Timeline









# Culture & Climate

Comer & PBIS

#### Data

Support Positive, Safe Environments

#### CASEL Standards

Related Services
Pilot Schools

#### **SEL Academy**

Build Capacity & Integrate

### **NHPS** Timeline





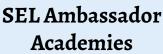
SEL coaches



Addition 30 minutes of SEL each day while Coordinator all schools were remote

Recruitment of SEL **Ambassadors** 

All 41 schools



Spring and Summer

**Administrator** Community of Practice

> Quarterly sessions

Pilot Explicit Instruction Curriculum

in SEL blocks











### NHPS Approach

For every educator to promote SEL skills development

### **Culture and Climate**

**Explicit Instruction** 

Academic Integration



### SEL - Types of Support

- Individual Staff
- Grade-Level
- School-Based Meetings
  - SEL Team
  - Student & Staff Support (SSST)
  - Culture and Climate
- Whole-Staff Meetings
- Professional Development

### **SEL** - Topics of Support

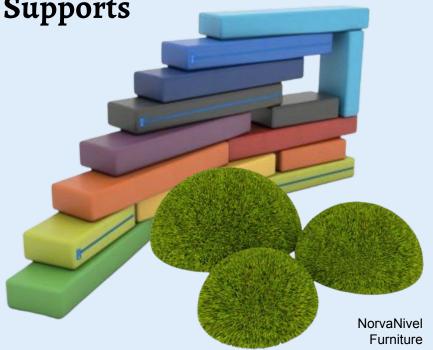
- Adult Wellness
- Co-Planning Professional Development
- Culture & Climate Topics PBIS MTSS
- Progress Monitoring SEL
- Culturally Responsive Practices
- Anti-Bias Training
- Academic Integration of SEL across Contents
- Explicit SEL Instruction Trainings
- Specifically Identified Supports





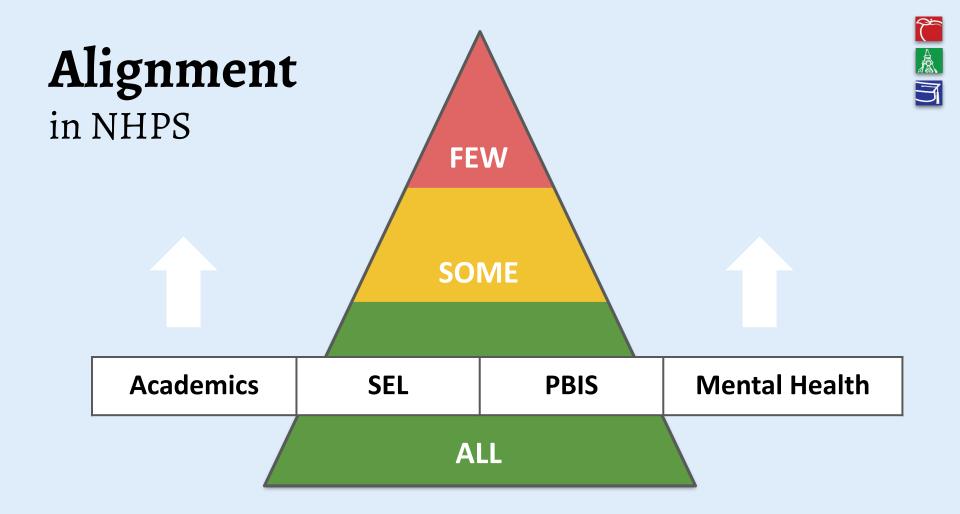
SEL & Mental Health - Additional Supports

- Mental Health Round Tables
- Student Focus Groups
- Mental Health First-Aid Training
- Re-imagined Spaces SEL Furniture
- Reset PBIS 8 schools
- Review360 Code of Conduct Data Trends
- Progress Monitoring SEL
- SEL Grade-Level Meetings
- Behavioral Specialists
- Specifically Identified Supports





**Connecting the Pieces - Mental Health in Schools** 



### Alignment

e.g. Elopement





- Matrix
- Reinforcement
   Schedule



- Culture & Climate
- Explicit Instruction



#### Mental Health

- Coping Strategies
- Check-ins



# PBIS & SEL:

We R.I.S.E.





RISE
aligns with
our 5
nationallyaccepted,
CT-adopted
SEL skills.

### Behavior Matrix (SEL, PBIS, MH)





S.O.A.R.	Classroom	Hallway	Cafeteria	SEL Skills	Mental Health
Safety	<ul> <li>Listen for teacher instructions.</li> <li>Use materials appropriately.</li> <li>Respect others' space, and property.</li> <li>Use appropriate language.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Listen for adult instructions.</li> <li>Use inside voices and walk calmly.</li> <li>Use appropriate language.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Listen for adult instructions.</li> <li>Follow cafeteria expectations.</li> <li>Use inside voices and walk calmly.</li> </ul>	Self- Management	e.g. Oppositional Defiance:  • Identifying feelings and de-escalating  • Coping strategies to manage emotions  • Self-regulating
Ownership	<ul> <li>Arrive on time.</li> <li>Take responsibility for mistakes and for asking questions.</li> <li>Keep cell phones away.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Arrive on time.</li> <li>Take responsibility for mistakes.</li> <li>Keep cell phones away.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Arrive on time.</li><li>Clean up after yourself.</li><li>Keep cell phones away.</li></ul>	Responsible Decision Making	e.g. Conduct Disorder:  • Strategies to help make good choices  • Cognitive behavior strategies
Attitude	<ul> <li>Stay on task and actively participate.</li> <li>Try several different methods before asking for help.</li> <li>When conflict arises, seek the closest adult.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Stay in line, with spaces between classmates, focused on the destination.</li> <li>When conflict arises, seek the closest adult.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Focus on eating a healthy lunch.</li> <li>Stay seated until asked to line up.</li> <li>When conflict arises, seek the closest adult.</li> </ul>	Self- Awareness	e.g. Anxiety Disorder:  • Understanding own triggers  • Planning for anxiety-provoking settings  • Scaffolds to participate
Respect	Use kind words.     Respect others' opinions.	Use kind words.     Respect others' opinions.	<ul><li>Use kind words.</li><li>Be inclusive with seating and gameplay.</li></ul>	Social Awareness & Relationship Skills	e.g. ADHD:  • Planning and goals • Coping mechanisms



Implications for Policy and Practice

### NHPS Strategic Plan









# GOAL: Social and Emotional Growth

Increase accessibility of social, emotional, and physical health resources for all families, staff, and other stakeholder groups.



### NHPS Strategic Plan







- Accessibility for all stakeholders
- Catalog of strategies
- Multi-tiered and culturally responsive practices aligned to our Code of Conduct.



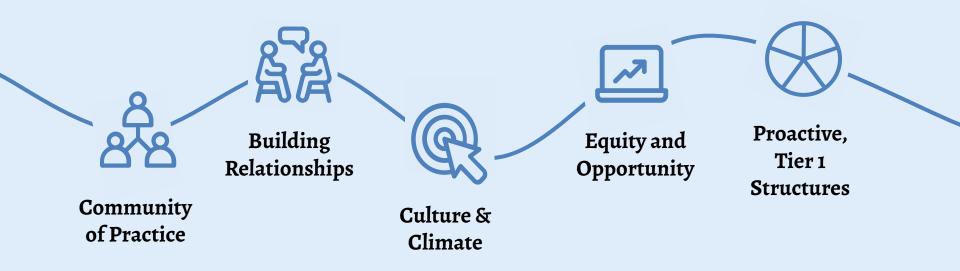
- SEL in all academic areas
- Explicit SEL instruction in all schools
- Child development pathways in all schools.
- Restorative practice throughout NHPS.

- Access for students of color into AP, TAG, and college-level courses
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- District Equity Leadership Team
- Race and equity policy



## Top 5 Tips





Where do we support mental health?

### Culture and Climate

- SEL/PBIS Motto & Matrix
- MTSS & Progress Monitoring
- Culture & Climate Team
- Adult SEL Training

- School Vision & School Improvement
- Community Building
- Celebrations & Recognition
- Code of Conduct & Restorative Practices

### **Explicit Instruction**

- Scheduled SEL Blocks
- Second Step & School Connect
- SEL Calendars & Newsletters
- SEL Self-Reflections

- Calming Corners, Furniture, Books
- Themes Schoolwide & Grade Level
- Bullying Prevention
- Health Curriculum

### **Academic Integration**

- Learning Targets
- 3 Signature Practices
- SEL Strategies
- Trauma Informed Practices

- College & Career Readiness Skills
- Culturally Responsive Practices
- Circles and Mood Meters
- Adult SEL Training



# Thank You

We appreciate all that you do to support the mental health of our students!



### **Presenters**

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**SCHOOLS** 



### **Session Evaluation**

Your feedback is critical to future planning of this event. **PLEASE** take a moment to share your valuable insight!

**THANK YOU!** 

https://bit.ly/NEPBISForum2023







How is mental health connected to PBIS TFI 3.0?





Connection to TFI 3.0 - 1.9 Practices Used in Classroom:

### **Educators implement foundational Tier 1 practices:**

- Explicitly teach, prompt, and review schoolwide expectations as described in 1.4
- Implement school-wide acknowledgements as described in 1.5
- And respond to challenging behavior as described in 1.7 across all classroom locations and routines and integrate these supports within all academic and SEB instruction in a culturally responsive manner.

