

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR NEW CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
IOWA CENTER FOR SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to create the Iowa Center for School Mental Health in the College of Education.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this request.

Background: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mental health and social-emotional learning needs among students and educators in Iowa were on the rise. These growing needs were outpacing the systems' ability to deliver necessary supports and services. For example, suicide is the second-leading cause of death among Iowa adolescents, with one in 13 high school students reporting they have attempted suicide at least once. Iowa students also have reported their school environments need significant improvement, particularly in the area of emotional safety (Iowa Department of Education, 2020).

The pandemic has only heightened the need to support the social, emotional, behavioral and psychological well-being of children, families and educators. The additional pandemic-related stressors such as isolation, loss of activities, inconsistent learning environments, financial difficulty, illness and death have resulted in prevalence rates of anxiety and depression in youth that are double pre-pandemic rates (Racine et al., 2021). Unfortunately, the need for services to support students suffering with these mental health needs far exceeds the number of school-based providers (e.g., counselors, psychologists). Shortages in both highly needed service providers, as well as the limited community-based services particularly in rural areas, underscore the need for a robust and comprehensive investment in mental health systems and supports.

Need for proposed center. The proposed Iowa Center for School Mental Health is a partnership between the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, Iowa Department of Education, and the University of Iowa's College of Education designed to address these needs through high-quality professional development for relevant stakeholders, research to establish evidence-based practices, and clinical assessment and intervention services. The purpose of the center is to provide social, emotional, behavioral and psychological (SEBP) services to all of Iowa's schools, not only to aid in COVID-19 recovery, but to build capacity for immediate and future delivery of mental health supports across the state. The center will bring together educational partners, policymakers and mental health professionals to serve as Iowa's hub for research-to-practice related to mental health.

Activities and objectives of proposed center. The center will leverage the respective capacities of the university, the Regents institutions, and the department for three primary objectives:

- A. Design and provide professional learning and training to pre-service and in-service educators (as well as others seeking continuing education units (CEUs) related to mental health education; e.g., school nurses)
- B. Conduct research on the development and implementation of evidence-based practices, assessments and interventions in Iowa's schools; including how to effectively implement and deliver these services to all students for near-immediate use in Iowa's classrooms
- C. Provide resources, outreach and immediate support to Iowa's educators and schools

D. Provide professional development, outreach, prevention, intervention and postvention services to the University of Iowa and other institutions of higher education

Relationship to mission and strategic plan. The objectives of the Iowa Center for School Mental Health (ICSMH) align with the University of Iowa and College of Education's strategic plan that prioritizes (a) improving student, faculty and staff success; (b) advancing research and discovery; and (c) actively engaging in work related to diversity, equity and inclusion. Specifically, the college strives to improve instructional quality and support for instruction; as well as to increase the engagement and success of faculty, staff, students, alumni and donors. The ICSMH will contribute to this improvement by offering professional learning opportunities for current students and faculty that will contribute to their development as educators who are able to address the SEBP needs of the students they will serve or currently serve, respectively. The center will fund and conduct research that engages schools and communities across the state to meet the goal of expanding community-engaged research that positively impacts Iowa and beyond. Additionally, research and professional development endeavors will involve inclusive collaboration across disciplines (e.g., nursing, social work, education, psychology, counseling, psychiatry, public health), thus creating a diverse network of stakeholders who will meaningfully contribute to carrying out the mission of the center. Finally, the center will continue the on-going of efforts of the college to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into all services and activities.

Relationship to other centers/institutes at the university. The ICSMH is a research and services center that will collaborate with other centers and institutes on campus to reach its strategic objectives. For example, collaborative relationships have been established with the Carver College of Medicine, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing, College of Public Health and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. These collaborations include research and training. For example, it is expected that the faculty in ICSMH will collaborate on research projects with the Carver College of Medicine's Iowa Neuroscience Institute. The ICSMH will also collaborate with the University Counseling Service to address mental health issues on campus.

Relationship to centers/institutes at other universities in Iowa and potential for collaboration. There are no comparable centers at other colleges and universities in Iowa, thus, the center will be the first of its kind specifically dedicated to meeting the SEBP needs in Iowa schools. However, collaborations have already been underway with regent universities and other colleges. Specifically, University of Iowa and non-university faculty presented at the center's first annual summit held in Des Moines in November 2021. Additionally, to maximize the reach of the center, strategic partnerships have been developed that engage Iowa State University (including Extension) and the University of Northern Iowa. This includes cross-university research, as well as training and supervision opportunities for graduate students.

Resources, facilities and equipment required. The College of Education is committed to carrying out the mission of the center and, as such, has dedicated a suite of offices on the 3rd floor of the Lindquist Center for center leadership personnel and staff. Additional space has been secured to provide clinical services and clinical training on campus. The center also requires technology (e.g., hardware, software and internet) and technology service providers for professional development, dissemination, and data collection and evaluation activities.

Expected funding sources. Center leadership is building a business model to promote long-term sustainability so that the center will exist indefinitely. In addition to a one-time \$20 million grant from the Iowa Department of Education, the center's model includes revenue from additional research and training grants, consultation with other institutions outside of Iowa, training of educational personnel outside of Iowa, and philanthropic support. This sustainable business model involves diverse funding streams necessary to support the personnel, technology and

materials for carrying out the mission of the center over time. The center is expected to exist in perpetuity to address the long-term mental health needs in our state, which are expected to increase in the coming decades. The goal is to establish a \$50 million endowment to support the long-term operational costs of the center.

As a research center, research grants will be a primary focus for funding. Some clinical services will be provided on a fee for service basis, and professional development opportunities outside of the state of Iowa will also be funded on a fee for service basis. There is significant philanthropic interest in endowing this center. Costs will be scaled based on funding secured.

	SOURCE(S) OF FUNDS	TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS
Year 1	Department of Education Grant Donor Funding College of Education Reallocation	\$2.5M
Year 2	Department of Education Grant Donor Funding Grants Fee for Service College of Education Reallocation	\$5.0M
Year 3	Department of Education Grant Donor Funding Grants Fee for Service College of Education Reallocation	\$5.0M
Year 4	Department of Education Grant Donor Funding Grants Fee for Service College of Education Reallocation	\$5.0M
Year 5	Department of Education Grant Donor Funding Grants Fee for Service College of Education Reallocation	\$5.0M
Year 6	Donor Funding Grants Fee for Service College of Education Reallocation	\$3.0-6.0M, depending on funding
Year 7	Donor Funding Grants Fee for Service College of Education Reallocation	\$3.0-6.0M, depending on funding

Evaluation plan. The ICSMH will be evaluated along the standard schedule of the university as well as in accordance with any grant requirements.

Date of implementation. Upon approval by the Board of Regents.