

2023-2024

IMPACT REPORT



**Every Child Safe, Healthy
and Connected**

Thank You Wisconsin Educators!

As we reflect on the impact of our work over the 2023-2024 year, we extend our deepest gratitude for all you do to support safe and healthy schools and students. Your time, effort, participation, and passion are invaluable in addressing some of the greatest challenges facing youth, including mental health, social media, and other barriers to learning.

On the behalf of the entire WISH Center team, we look forward to continuing our collaboration in the years ahead.

In Partnership,

Tracy Herlitzke

WISH Center Director



Left - Right: Alie Hubing, Project Coordinator
Alissa Darin, Regional Coordinator
Kalli Rasmussen, Communications and Project Coordinator
Carol Zabel, Regional Coordinator
Tracy Herlitzke, Director
Katharine Reid, Statewide Project Coordinator
Jenny Holle, Regional Coordinator
Lynn Verage, Regional Coordinator

WISH CENTER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING 2023-2024

3,280 total participants attended WISH Center trainings and events from **341** public school districts, private schools and organizations.



3,280
Participants

Innovative Methods for Learning

The WISH Center advances equitable systems level change and individual professional learning through continuous improvement, innovative learning opportunities and collaborations with diverse partners.



Training and Professional Learning Experiences

- In-person and virtual
- Regional and Direct to Schools
- Responsive to Educator Needs
- Interactive and Experiential



Implementation Planning During Training

- Opportunities to Reflect and Design for Implementation within Diverse Contexts



Coaching for Implementation

- Skilled Reflection and Goal Setting
- Guided Planning for Sustainable Growth
- Move Beyond Initial Training
- Based on Implementation Science



Resource Development and Sharing

- Curated Resources to Guide Implementation
- Partnerships with Experts and Educational Leaders



Technical Assistance

- Office Hours with Regional and State Coordinators
- Guidance and Direction



Collaborative Partnerships

- Extending the WISH Center Capacity with our Partners in the Field
- Growing the Capacity within Schools and Districts to Sustain the Work



We grow the capacity of educators to positively impact the well-being and equitable outcomes of every student.

REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction provided partnership and partial funding for several projects. Based on results from its annual needs assessment of the field, in the 2023-2024 school year the WISH Center has provided regional and statewide training, technical assistance and resources in the following areas:

Suicide Prevention

- The WISH Center provided technical assistance on suicide prevention in schools. **10** schools participated in office hours receiving information on peer-to-peer prevention programs, staff training, risk assessment, comprehensive programming, and resources for families.
- The WISH Center provided a suicide prevention presentation at the Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference to **43** attendees. In partnership with Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the WISH Center offered virtual presentations on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's new suicide prevention curriculum, reaching **170** participants, and **35** additional participants received the presentation at the Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference.

Trauma Sensitive Schools

- In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the 12 CESAs, the WISH Center facilitated a Trauma Sensitive Schools leadership development training and community of practice focused on the book *Equity-Centered Trauma-Informed Education* by Alex Shevrin Venet. In the Spring, WISH hosted a statewide webinar for the field, as well as a Q&A for CESA leads featuring the author. **188** participants attended the webinar and **212** registered for the recording.

Compassion Resilience

- The WISH Center, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Rogers Community Learning and Engagement, provided training and technical assistance for schools and districts implementing the Compassion Resilience Toolkit. **111** educators participated in the virtual Training of Facilitators from **56** public and private schools, districts and organizations. **95%** of surveyed participants reported they would be likely or very likely to recommend the training. Coaching for implementation was piloted with five participants from the Spring training.
- WISH, Rogers and DPI supported a group of diverse leaders in the Milwaukee area in utilizing the toolkit to assist themselves and their staff.
- An evaluation of the toolkit training and implementation was initiated in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.



School SBIRT Implementation Project

- **37** schools from **27** districts participated in the School SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention Referral for Treatment) Project. Two day in-person training sessions facilitated learning for new schools and practitioners. Two booster sessions and three communities of practice were held to increase learning and implementation of the brief intervention. **293** students received School SBIRT services.

Restorative Practices

- **189** individuals from **64** districts participated in **9** Restorative Practices trainings provided virtually and in person at multiple CESAs and at Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point. Trainings included Restorative Practices for Educators, Facilitating Formal Conferencing, Advancing Restorative Practices: *Intentional Classroom Engagement* book study and a Training of Trainers.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

- **34** Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training sessions were held for **576** participants in schools and communities throughout Wisconsin. The YMHFA training course is designed for adults that work with youth ages 12-18. In addition, WISH held **two** communities of practice to support statewide YMHFA instructors. **Two** trainings of trainers (TOTs) were held to increase the capacity of individuals to provide training on Youth Mental Health First Aid resulting in **24** new trainers from **15 public school districts, 1 public charter school, 1 private school, and 2 organizations**. YMHFA microlearning opportunities were shared covering accessibility and accommodations, engagement, tips for new trainers and recommendations for training in tribal communities or with indigenous peoples.

PREPaRE

- The WISH Center provided training on the PREPaRE 2 School Safety and Preparedness Curriculum from the National Association of School Psychologists. **14** educators from seven districts attended this training event at CESA 4 in the western part of the state.

DBT Skills in Schools

- The WISH Center provided an introduction to the DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) Steps-A curriculum along with implementation support for schools and districts using the curriculum. **31** educators participated in an overview of the DBT Steps-A curriculum, and **24** individuals took advantage of four implementation support sessions.

Here's what participants in WISH Center trainings like most about our events:

"That professional day learning about Restorative Practices was the best professional development that I've had in 30 years of teaching."

"I just wanted to thank your team for all your work on this project. I had almost given up hope of making our AODA policy more supportive and then, when we started emphasizing SBIRT again this year, we finally saw openness to change. Thanks for being a change agent for schools!"

"I appreciate all of the care and time and effort that went into this training. You have made this experience one of the best training experiences I have ever had."

New Project: Vaping Intervention and Prevention

- The WISH Center received funding for a "Vaping Prevention and Intervention Project" from the WI Department of Health Services. Our goals are to support schools in building awareness of best practices in vaping policy, prevention, interventions and using non-punitive disciplinary processes. For the 2024-2025 school year, a cohort of schools in the School SBIRT project will focus on implementing alternatives to suspension for vaping as well as policy updates.

How do I know I belong?

Participants said:

"WHEN I FEEL HEARD"

"AN INVITING SMILE"

"WHEN I AM REPRESENTED"

"WHEN I FEEL VALUED AND SAFE"

"CONNECTIONS"

Strategic Focus on Equity

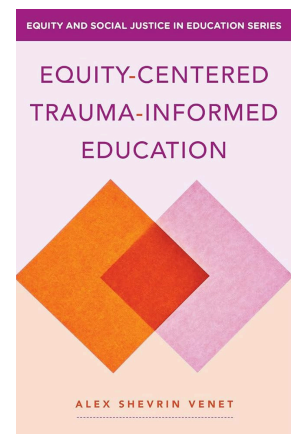
- Equity is an ongoing strategic priority for the WISH Center, as documented in our Strategic Plan.
 - The annual Building the Heart of Successful Schools keynote address by Derek Francis led over 260 educators in learning about Equity in Action. Mr. Francis also co-facilitated a BIPOC Affinity Session at the conference.
 - The WISH Center co-facilitated learning for 12 CESA TSS Leads and 8 WISH team members using Alex Shevrin Venet's book *Equity-Centered Trauma-Informed Education*, and sponsored a statewide webinar featuring the author. Additionally, the WISH team incorporated the equity mindset cards into the discussion to engage in practical conversations that lead to transformation.
 - As a result of our own learning, the WISH Center team identified specific actions to enhance our ability to fulfill our mission to grow the capacity of educators to positively impact the well-being and equitable outcomes of every student. These actions include integrating the principles outlined in the book as part of our upcoming training opportunities and organizational operations.



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PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

How are you working with your staff to implement the toolkit in your work?

CSD is committed to a culture of learning for all; students, families and staff. We believe that professional learning is an essential component of district growth and development. We support our staff to deepen their knowledge and skill as professionals so they can provide productive learning experiences for students. We believe the well being of students and staff is a core function of a thriving school system.

Resilience is not only for students. All of us face adversity. The ability to bounce back with new learning and strength can make a difference for our school communities. Each of us has a path to reaching our full potential. The School District of Cambridge has a strategic, district-wide approach to implementation and sustainability of the compassion-resilience toolkit. This bottom-up/top-down approach included co-designing a year-long study of the compassion resilience tool kit. The student service team, administrative team in consultation with the Wisconsin Safe and Health School Center and Rogers Community Learning and Engagement developed a multi-year professional learning agenda. We embarked on this professional learning agenda in August at our district convocation and monthly efforts continue at the school-level to sustain these efforts.

What did you appreciate about the training and support?

Our partnership and collaboration with WISH and Rogers leverages authentic practices in best learning for adults. We simultaneously built our capacity to lead the work with our internal student services and administrative team while learning and planning side-by-side with the staff from WISH and Rogers. Even our Board of Education is engaged in the compassion-resiliency work by participating in our district-wide book read of "Pause, Breathe. Flourish. Living Your Best Life As An Educator" by William Parker. We are grateful for the expertise and guidance of the team at Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools to help us integrate the compassion-resilience toolkit into our daily operations and approach to building a strong, compassionate culture.



MARGGIE BANKER ED.D.

Superintendent of Cambridge Schools



What do you want to see happen as a result?

Multi-year professional learning addressing staff/educator resilience, building protective factors in our schools, building self-efficacy in students and to build hope and strength in all of us resulting in a compassionate culture.

WISH PARTICIPANTS BY LOCATION

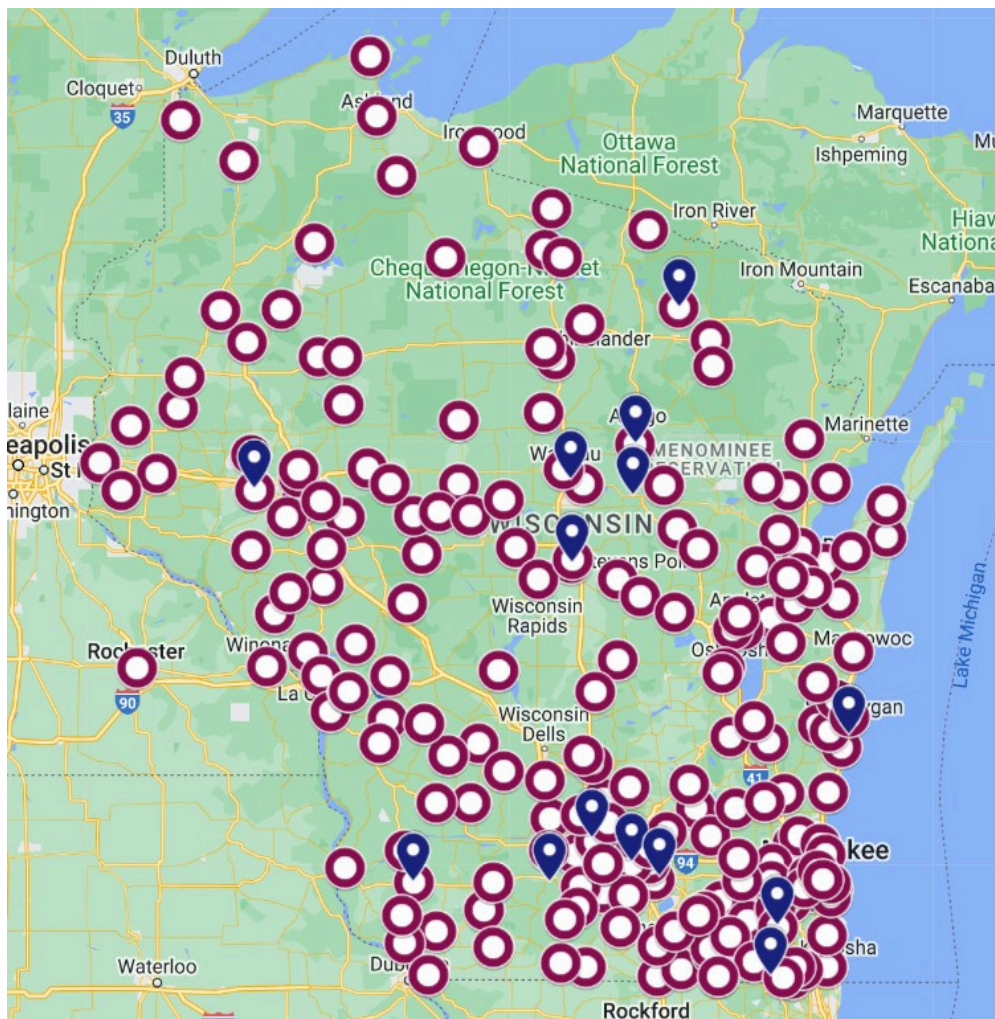


Each purple circle is a public school, private school, or organization that attended a WISH Center event in 2023-2024.



Each blue pin represents a school district or CESA that purchased in-district direct service training during 2023-2024.

See which School Districts, Private Schools, and Organizations attended WISH Events ([Link to interactive map](#))



In-District and Direct Service Trainings

- The WISH Center provided In-District Direct Service training to **620** individual educators from **17** districts.
- The WISH Center supported **11** districts in Restorative Practices for Educators, Formal Conferencing, and Coaching for Implementation.
- WISH provided PREPaRE Workshop 2 training in 1 district for **18** participants.
- Sources of Strength training events were provided for adult advisors and youth peer leaders from **4** school districts and involved **59** adult advisors and youth leaders.
- The WISH Center supported one district's entire staff of **150** individuals to kick off a year of engagement with the Compassion Resilience Toolkit, and shared an overview of the toolkit with **10** individuals in collaboration with CESA 3.

Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference

In partnership with the Department of Public Instruction, with collaboration and funding support the WISH Center offers the Annual Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference to present national and state level speakers and to showcase local practitioners supporting safe and healthy schools.

4

*Pre Conference
Sessions*

15

*Conference
Sectionals*

5

*Pre-recorded
Sectionals*

269

Participants

- **269** educators attended the annual Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference held on December 7, 2023. **161** educators participated in morning Pre-Conference learning sessions and **140** attended the afternoon sessions on December 6, 2022. Participants came from **89** school districts and **30** organizations. Of the districts attending
 - **47% were rural or town districts**
 - **25% were suburban**
 - **19% represented small or mid-sized cities**
 - **9% were from large cities.**
- Conference participants and those who registered for recorded access could access recordings and resources beyond the conference itself. By the end of July of 2024, these recordings had been viewed a total of **204** times. View the [2023 BHSS Recap Video](#) to see more.
- **15** Conference Sectionals, **4** Pre Conference Presentations and **5** pre-recorded sectionals on topics such as:
 - Substance Use Prevention and Intervention
 - Equity/Equitable and Culturally Responsive Practices
 - Mental and Physical Health
 - Creating a Positive School Climate
 - School Safety and Violence Prevention, Trauma Sensitive Schools,
 - Social Emotional Learning, and more
- Keynote Address by national speaker **Derek Francis**:
 - **Equity in Action - respondents to our survey agreed or strongly agreed**
 - The keynote was relevant to their work - **99%**
 - The keynote was of high quality - **97%**
 - The session prompted them to reflect on equitable practices and outcomes in their work - **96%**



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**Building the Heart
of Successful Schools**

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDS OUR CAPACITY

The WISH Center acknowledges our partners who extended our capacity to reach more schools and educators. A diverse group of partners, including state agencies, CESAs, local schools, organizations, and individuals bring unique perspectives and valuable contributions to our work. Partnership and funding for the WISH Center projects is provided primarily by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, with direct support by members of the Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team. Additional funding for Vaping Prevention work is provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference Presenters and Contributors

Derek Francis, Minneapolis Public Schools
Madeline Tolkman Conrad, CESA 9
Angie Pliska, CESA 9
Susan Williams, WI DOJ-Office of School Safety
Soumya Palreddy, Palreddy Lowe Learning Lab
Ian Lowe, Palreddy Lowe Learning Lab
Amanda Florence Goodenough, GoodEnough Consulting
Kathy Markeland, WAFCA
Julie Heller, Racine Unified School District
Laura Staats, Children's Wisconsin
Lynn Cook, WI DOJ-Office of Crime Victim Services
Dr. Rainey Briggs, School District of Baraboo
Tara Allert, Gundersen Health System
Tracy Caravella, School District of La Crosse
Jamie Ganske, Chippewa Falls Unified School District
Patrick Uselding, Rogers Behavioral Health
Kimberly Johnson, Rogers Behavioral Health
Brittney Fair, Rogers Behavioral Health
NaQuisha Mann, Fond du Lac School District
Scott Bakkum, Kettle Moraine School District
Alissa Darin, Wisconsin Safe & Healthy Schools Center
Molly Herrmann, WI DPI
Brian Juchems, GSAFE
Michael Altekruise, Neenah Joint School District
Karen Spann-Turner, Milwaukee Public Schools
Megan Wright, Milwaukee Public Schools
Jenny Holle, Wisconsin Safe & Healthy Schools Center
Katharine Reid, Wisconsin Safe & Healthy Schools Center
Adam Nowak, Lakeland Consortium School District
Joshua Schroeder, Lakeland Consortium School District
Kristie Johns, WI Family Ties

Tara Tindall, Madison Metro School District
Shaya Schreiber, Madison Metro School District
Debbie Moellendorf, UW-Madison Extension
Allie Libby, Merrill Area Public Schools
Trisha Kubichek, Merrill Area Public Schools
Libby Strunz, WI DPI
Dr. Elijah Nicholas
Jennifer Paine, Women & Children's Horizons
Cindy Czarnik-Neimeyer, Catalpa Health & Appleton Area School District
Chris Wardlow, Catalpa Health & Outagamie County
John Fournelle, Horizon High School
Tracy Goll, Horizon High School
Madeline Brown, Horizon High School



To Hinckley Productions, the team behind our conference recording technology, we extend our appreciation for your continuous support and expert guidance. Your contribution has played an important role in the success of this year's conference.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDS OUR CAPACITY

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Partners

National Council for Mental Wellbeing
Dr. Soumya Palreddy
Jill Kluesner
Tracy Aliota, YMHFA Trainer
Cindy Czarnik-Neimeyer, YMHFA Trainer
Megan Diedrick, YMHFA Trainer
Prenicia Clifton, YMHFA Trainer
Lisa Goldsberry, YMHFA Trainer
Madeline Conrad, YMHFA Trainer
Angie Pliska, YMHFA Trainer
Carlyn Andrew, YMHFA Trainer
Kathy DesRochers, YMHFA Trainer
Jamie Lasee, YMHFA Trainer
Jenna Zuelke, YMHFA Trainer
Jennifer Siudzinski, YMHFA Trainer
Angela Bielinski, YMHFA Trainer
Lindsey Reckelberg, YMHFA Trainer
Kris Ravet, YMHFA Trainer
Jane DePrey, YMHFA Trainer
Kristin Lorino, YMHFA Trainer
Theresa Guy, YMHFA Trainer
Sara Beasland, YMHFA Trainer
Erika Spear, YMHFA Trainer
Kara Witthuhn, YMHFA Trainer
Samantha Kesting, YMHFA Trainer
Qiana Holmes, YMHFA Trainer

Collaborative Partners & Organizations

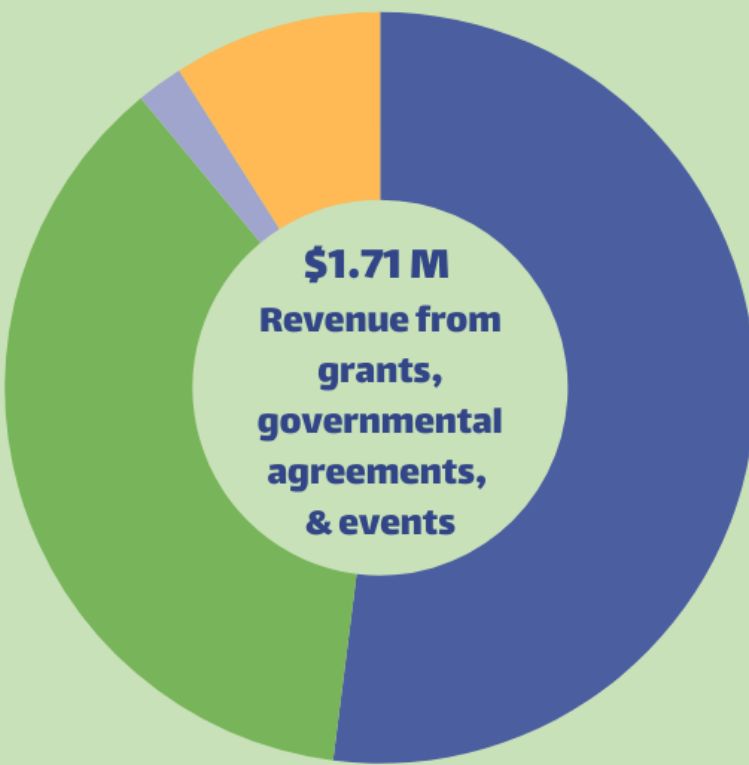
American Lung Association in Wisconsin
Coalition for Expanding School-Based Mental Health
GSAFE
Mental Health America
Office of Children's Mental Health
Rogers Behavioral Health
Safe Communities of Madison
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of School Safety
Wisconsin Family Ties
Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association

Here's what participants in WISH Center trainings like most about our events:

“Our partnership and collaboration with Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools leverages authentic practices in best learning for adults. We simultaneously built our capacity to lead the work with our internal student services and administrative team while learning and planning side-by-side with the staff from Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools.”

“Learning from others, and the leaders' "ask anything" approach to inviting questions. I also appreciate the wealth of resource links that the leaders and participants provide. Everyone is very generous.”

2023-2024 Financials



52% Salary & Fringe

\$895K

37% Programs & Contracts

\$633K

9% Indirect Costs Paid to CESAs

\$148K

2% Supplies & Materials

\$34K

Partnership Opportunities


The WISH Center is open to considering additional service or funding opportunities that align with our mission and vision to serve Wisconsin schools and educators. Please reach out to our [team to connect](#).

Connect With Us!


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