

# Integrated education and mental health services

## The challenge



The current educational structures do not accommodate students who have little or no external support for **severe mental and behavioral health needs**.



Students with disabilities who lack access to community mental health resources can present **major challenges** for the most well-equipped **special education** staff.



Schools do not have the resources to address a growing group of students who show **aggressive** and **dangerous** behaviors, **complex** pharmacological profiles and/or multiple developmental, cognitive and neurobiological **disorders**.



The intermediate school districts and other cooperative entities serving this population are uniquely positioned to see how diminished funding for out-of-school placements is **creating a crisis** for Setting IV schools

This combination of challenges **disproportionately** and **negatively** impacts communities of color and American Indians.

## The solution

Integrated education and mental health services will concurrently address young students' mental health/medical *and* educational needs and necessitate a multidisciplinary team of highly skilled educators, dedicated mental health providers and medical providers in unison to treat and serve students at school.



### Mental health services

- School-led **mental health** funding
- **Partnerships** with mental health agencies
- In-school **psychiatric help** for students who cannot access traditional services
- Dedicated, co-located **county staff** to assure access to county services



### Proactive, preventative measures

- Staff and program development for **school partners**
- Make existing **professional development funding** permanent for intermediate school districts and education cooperatives
- Create teams to build the capacity of regular school districts to intervene faster and **prevent level IV placement**



### Improved services at Area Learning Centers (ALCs)

- **Equalize funding** for students in ALCs
- Fund ALC **transportation services**



### Fewer operational and funding barriers

- Fund the **cross-subsidy** at 25 percent of the excess costs for students served at the intermediate school districts



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## The results

An accountability study will ensure we meet our goals:

- Improved student academic and mental health results
- Least restrictive environment (LRE) for students
- Fewer staff injuries
- Aligned resources that reduce costs
- Equity in access to services