

# K-5 Social-Emotional Health Grant

## Health and Wellness Unit



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

### Overview

School mental health professionals, including school social workers, positively impact the school environment by working with young students and their families to identify safety net insecurities, social and emotional skills deficits, instances of abuse and neglect, and mental health challenges. Identifying these student issues as early as possible increases the likelihood that problems can be resolved in a manner that decreases long-term problems with learning and other barriers to student success in the future.

### Purpose

The intent of the K-5 Social-Emotional Pilot Program is to place a team of school mental health professionals in each school that participates. These teams will work in partnership with classroom teachers to provide support for young students and their families at a critical time in their education.

A significant goal of the pilot program is to ensure that students of elementary age receive the appropriate level of necessary services, in the right place and at the right time while removing the burden placed on teachers. Classroom teachers are often expected to be everything to a student, from a therapist to a family counselor. Bringing professionals into the school to fill these roles will allow teachers to focus on their primary task of teaching.

The pilot program will enable parents, students, teachers, administrators and school mental health professionals to create a safe, positive and successful learning environment.

### House Bill 19-1017

Colorado legislation created the pilot program to employ school mental health workers in up to ten elementary or K-8 schools that have a significant number of high needs students and a high rate of poverty among students. House Bill 19-1017 increases state expenditures from Fiscal Year 2019-20 through Fiscal Year 2022-23.

### 2021 Grantees

Aurora Public Schools

Cañon City Schools

Cherry Creek School District

Colorado Springs District 11

Mountain Song Community School, Charter School Institute

Harrison School District 2

South Routt School District RE-3

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

[Visit the K-5 Social-Emotional Health Grant webpage for more information.](#)

For questions, contact Christina Austin at 730-390-9112 or [Austin\\_C@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Austin_C@cde.state.co.us).

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