Greetings colleagues!
Welcome to the first Coalition in Action newsletter! The Coalition to Advance Future Student Success brings together 12 organizations that represent leaders from practitioners in the classroom to the state capitol working together to leverage an unprecedented amount of federal COVID relief funding to bring greater equity and outcomes for students in the U.S. As our education professionals and students learn to navigate this new phase of the pandemic, this month’s focus is on how members are using ESSER funds to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing supports. We understand how important it is to ensure these needs are met in order for our students to be successful. Check out the examples from across the Coalition below to learn more.
Innovative Partnership Helps SC Educators Address Pandemic Trauma Impact

The SCDE and Children’s Trust of SC partnered to help schools recognize and address the impacts of the pandemic on the mental health of children. Every school district is now eligible to send representatives to training on ACEs (adverse childhood experiences). Link here. CCSSO is proud to support state education agencies in leveraging COVID relief funds to support all students.

- PLEASE SHARE: @CCSSO Board President & @educationSC Superintendent @Molly_Spearman announced a partnership with @ChildrensTrustS to help schools recognize & address the impacts of the pandemic on the mental health of children. Learn more here: bit.ly/3FCf3t5.

Resources Help K-12 Systems Assess and Support Students’ Wellbeing

Hear from Superintendent Michael Hinojosa in Dallas, Superintendent Chad Gestson in Phoenix Union, and Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack in Akron on challenges and best practices in districts’ working to address issues of student wellbeing. Chiefs for Change worked with experts to create tools that help K-12 systems identify and meet children’s mental health needs: a guide for states and for districts.

- PLEASE SHARE: @ChiefsforChange partnered with experts in psychology, public health, and education to create resources that can help states and school districts assess and support students’ wellbeing needs. Find those resources and more here: https://www.chiefsforchange.org/.
Los Angeles Unified School District Invests in Black Student Achievement Plan to Holistically Address Student Needs

The Los Angeles Unified School District used ARP funds to invest in the Black Student Achievement Plan to better and more holistically address Black student needs and hire more mental health specialists.

- PLEASE SHARE: @LASchools used ARP funds to invest in the Black Student Achievement Plan to better and more holistically address Black student needs and hire more mental health specialists. Learn more here bit.ly/3xr9VWL, @GreatCitySchls

Boston School Formulates a Multi-year Trauma Recovery Response

Boston Teachers Union member Melanie Allen reflects on her year at her school where ARP funds enabled her school to formulate a multiyear recovery strategy. Read more in this American Federation of Teachers (AFT) blogpost.

- PLEASE SHARE: “This year, we all became emotional impairment inclusion teachers. When children’s anxiety, depression, impulsivity and anger impede their ability to learn, then you have to attend to their basic needs before you can place an intense cognitive demand on them,” says @AFTunion member Melanie Allen. Learn more here: bit.ly/3Mahcio.

States Enact Legislation to Address Student Mental Health

Whether they personally suffer from anxiety and depression, 7 in 10 teens today say there are major problems among their peers. Policymakers have acknowledged the ongoing concern over student mental health, and state legislatures are addressing the

NC, LA, and DC Leverage ARP Funds to Address Needs of Homeless Students

States are coordinating with afterschool programs and other community partners to bring academic tutoring, mental health counseling, and other resources to
issue by offering mental health as a reason to be absent from school. This publication is a look at recently enacted legislation addressing student mental health.

- PLEASE SHARE: COVID-19 changed in-person learning & access to school-based services, significantly affecting students’ mental health & well-being. Learn more about how @NCSLorg has enacted legislation: bit.ly/3LdgAHt.

07 | Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Announces Get Kids Ahead Initiative

In his State of the State address, Evers announced the new Get Kids Ahead initiative, which will provide $15 million to schools to support the development of a comprehensive school mental health system.

- PLEASE SHARE: Wisconsin @GovEvers recently announced school funding allocations for the #GetKidsAhead initiative, which will support school mental health systems and help Wisconsin students thrive.

FEATURED RESOURCE: Hidden Pain: Children Who Lost a Parent or Caregiver to COVID-19 and What the Nation Can Do to Help Them

The Council of the Great City Schools shared their partnership with the COVID Collaborative to publish the Hidden Pain report last December as well as the launch of a website. This project looks at the over 200,000 children to-date who have lost a caregiver due to the pandemic and offers resources and a network of support.
NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC:
Address COVID Learning Gaps for All Students

For bonus content and past issues, visit the Coalition website, updates coming Summer 2022!