



Project AWARE

Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education

The Project AWARE program aims to create a coordinated and responsive behavioral health system for all students in all public and public charter schools in the District of Columbia.

Key Components

Whole School

- Develop a safety net team to respond to students with symptoms that may need clinical intervention
- Create partnership with community-based mental health providers

Educators, Administrators, and Staff

- Gain understanding of how to recognize and refer students and families with mental health needs
- Improve understanding of the impact of trauma and use of trauma-responsive practices through training

Students

- Skill-building groups to increase resilience
- Screening and early intervention from School mental health staff

Quick Facts

- 5-year grant
- Funded by SAMHSA
- **State-level partners:**
 - Office of the State Superintendent of Education
 - Department of Behavioral Health
- **3 Local Education Agency partners:**
 - DC Public Schools
 - Friendship Public Charter Schools
 - KIPP DC Public Charter Schools
- **Two-Phase Plan:**
 - Phase 1 schools start in year 1
 - Phase 2 Schools start in Year 3
- Aim to reach at least **11,000 youth and 1,500 educators**
- Emphasis on schools and communities with the greatest unmet needs

DCPS Key Outcomes

Increased rates of screening and referral of students with concern for a mental health need

Development of integrated networks of school and community-based health providers

Increase in knowledge of mental health among students, families, and educators

Implementation of trauma responsive schools model