



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Students Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner the authority to amend the contract for providing additional trainings of tier two interventions to address mental health needs of students.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Contract

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The office of Coordinated Student Support Services/School Mental Health team proposes an amendment to the existing contract with the Center for Safe & Resilient Schools. The purpose of this contract is to enhance the provision of evidence-based intervention trainings, namely SSET (Skills for Social and Academic Success), Bounce Back, and CBITS (Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools), tailored to address the diverse needs of NE student population who require tier two interventions. The target audience for these trainings encompasses a diverse range of individuals within school settings. This includes not only mental health clinicians but also non-clinical personnel such as classroom teachers, specialist, administrators, nurses, afterschool staff and other support staff.

The previous trainings on SSET, Bounce Back and CBITS in the 2023 school year have yielded positive feedback and tangible results within NE school community. Notably, each training session reached full capacity, underscoring the high demand and effectiveness of these trainings. Building upon this success, the team advocates for the expansion of train-the-trainer sessions to ensure sustainability and widespread delivery of tier two support services. Tier two support refers to targeted interventions aimed at addressing the needs of students who require additional support beyond universal interventions but do not yet necessitate intensive, individualized interventions. The NDE proposes implementing a train-the-trainer model where ESU 3 staff will undergo training to become trainers themselves. This approach enables the agency to empower ESU 3 staff to conduct future trainings autonomously, thereby eliminating the need to repeatedly contract with external contractors for training sessions.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: Amend from \$36,500 to \$114,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Project AWARE 2.0
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Original contract was below \$50,000

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
Center for Safe & Resilient Schools is the sole provider of SSET, Bounce Back and CBITS trainings. No other contractor provides these intervention trainings.
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*