



SBHSN Five-Year Program Impact Report

Expanding School-Based Mental Health Access Across America | Grant Cycle: 2020–2025

Executive Summary

Over the past five years, the School-Based Health Services Network (SBHSN) has spearheaded one of the largest expansions of mental health support for children in U.S. public schools. Through strategic grant investments in states such as Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Connecticut, New Jersey, Tennessee, and California, SBHSN has helped **more than 1 million students** gain access to mental health services—many for the first time.

By embedding full-time mental health professionals and Transitional Coaches on campuses, SBHSN has addressed not only student wellness but also school-wide climate, crisis prevention, and educator support. This report provides an overview of program outcomes, key demographic reach, training efforts, and the profound ripple effect the program has had across thousands of schools.



Program Reach & Implementation

SBHSN's funding model prioritized:



Direct placement of
licensed school-based
mental health
professionals



Intensive training of
school counselors and
administrators in the
Transitional Coach
Model



Crisis prevention and
behavioral de-escalation
strategies



Family-centered engagement



Culturally responsive services

Key Stats Over Five Years

9

States Funded

365+

School Districts

730+

Professionals Trained

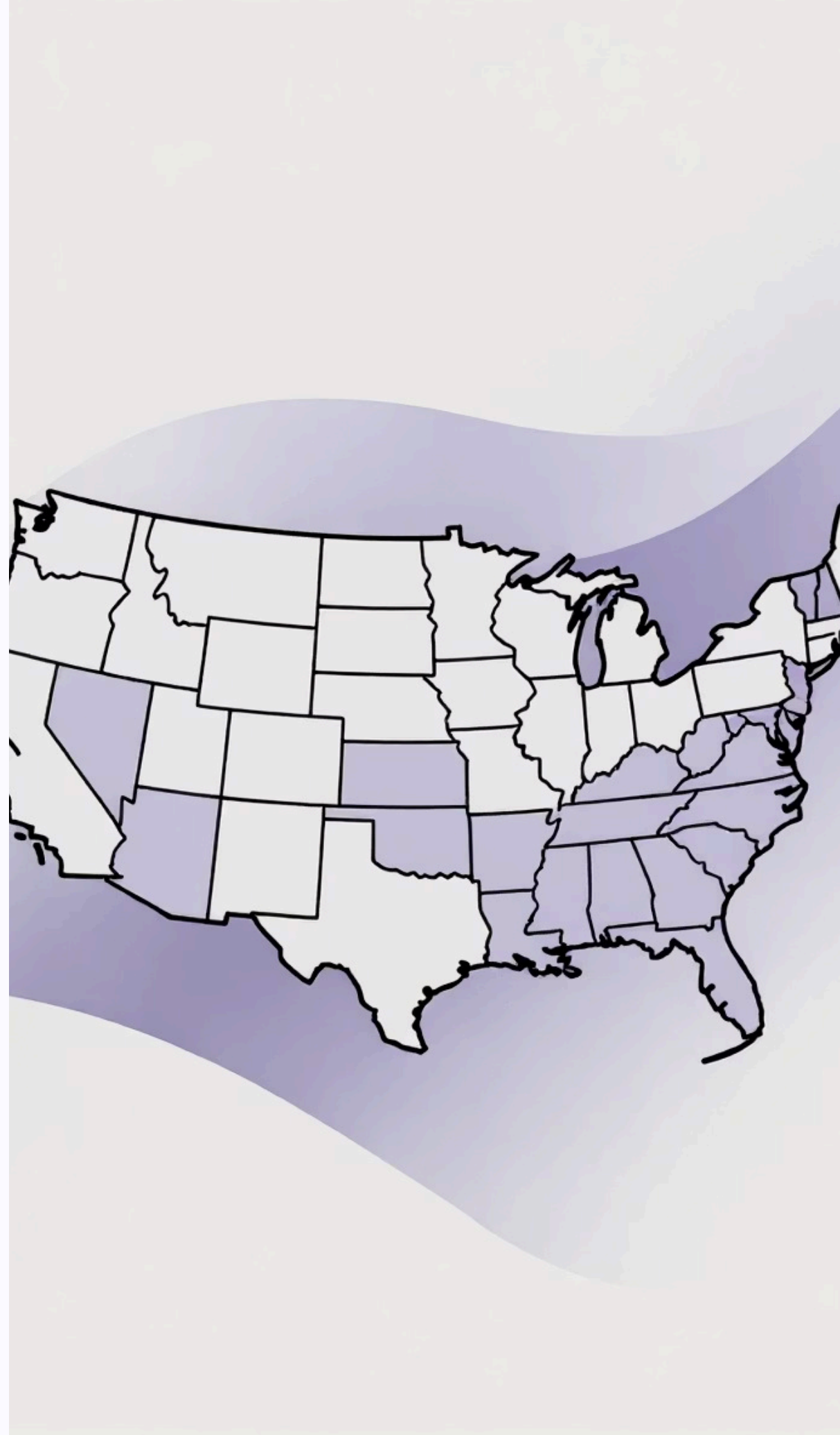
In the Transitional Coach Model

1100+

Mental Health Professionals

Funded and placed in schools

SBHSN's impact reached over **1,000,000+ students** who received access to full-time in-building mental health care across the nine funded states.



Student Demographics & Equity Focus

Socioeconomic Status

Over 88% of students served were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch



Community Type

75% Urban communities and 25% Rural/frontier communities



Gender

65% Female



Ethnicity

75% African American, with remaining White, Latino, and Arabic students



SBHSN's programming prioritized support for students experiencing the highest levels of socioeconomic disadvantage. These students face increased exposure to housing instability, food insecurity, chronic stress, and community violence—all of which deeply affect academic performance and emotional development.

Addressing Systemic Challenges

High rates of intergenerational poverty

Many students served come from families that have experienced poverty across multiple generations, creating complex barriers to educational success.

Under-resourced school systems

Schools in the program often lacked adequate funding for basic educational resources, let alone specialized mental health support.

Limited access to primary or mental healthcare

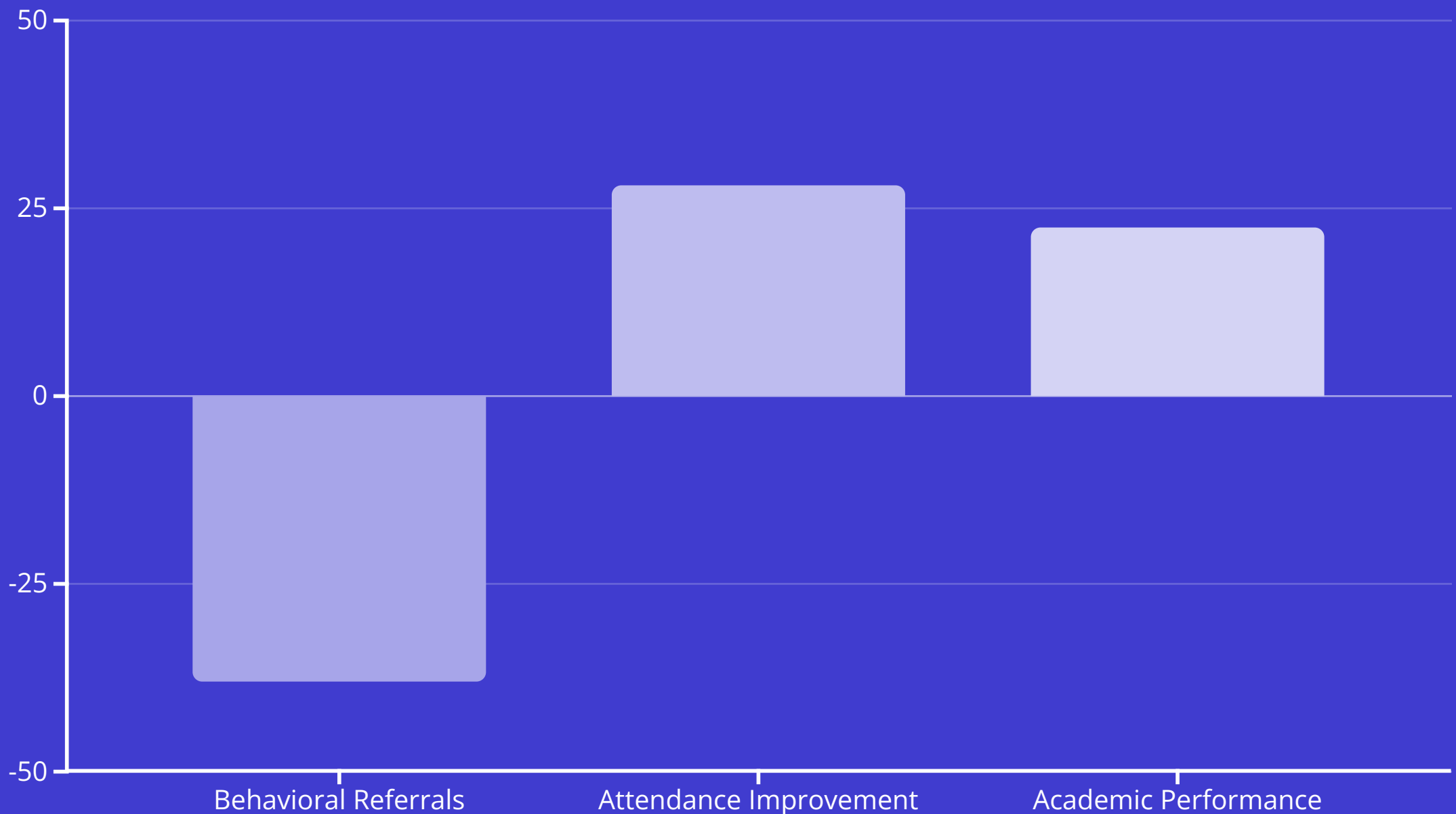
For many students, school-based services represented their only access point to any form of mental health support.

Elevated risk of juvenile justice involvement and trauma exposure

Students in these communities face higher rates of adverse childhood experiences and contact with the justice system.

Within these contexts, SBHSN's embedded clinicians became a lifeline—often the only mental health professional a student had access to within walking distance of their home.

Measured Outcomes



Districts reported significant improvements across key metrics:

- **38% drop** in behavioral referrals
- **28% increase** in attendance among chronically absent students
- **20–25% rise** in academic performance among students receiving Tier 2 or 3 mental health interventions

Staff & Faculty Support



Staff wellness check-ins

Regular support sessions to address teacher burnout and compassion fatigue



Trauma response debriefings

Structured sessions following school or community crises



On-the-spot de-escalation coaching

Real-time support for managing challenging classroom behaviors



Professional development

Training on student behavior understanding and self-care practices

"We didn't just gain a counselor. We gained a teammate who shows up for kids and staff every day." — School Counselor, Atlanta, GA

Impact Story: The Turning Point



The Challenge

Escalating classroom outbursts and chronic teacher burnout at MS Perez



The Intervention

20 de-escalation workshops, 60+ behavioral event interventions, coordinated care for 45 students



The Result

Staff absenteeism dropped by 30%, improved classroom management

"I was ready to quit until this grant helped me reframe what I was seeing in the classroom." — Teacher, MS Perez

Impact Story: The Breakthrough

1 — Before SBHSN

Luis, a 7th grader in Connecticut, hadn't spoken in class all year due to deep trauma history

2 — Initial Intervention

With SBHSN grant funding, Luis began expressing himself through drawing in silence during counseling sessions

3 — Progress

Over six months, Luis gradually began verbal communication with his counselor and select peers

4 — Transformation

Luis progressed to leading a small student support group for others experiencing loss



What Parents and School Leaders Can Expect



Whole-Child Support

Resources to address not just academic success, but the emotional and behavioral wellness of every student



Direct Access to Care

Placement of trained Transitional Coaches providing one-on-one counseling, group therapy, and crisis prevention support



Staff Development

Training for school staff in de-escalation and trauma-informed response techniques



Early Intervention

Identification of students at risk of dropping out or harming themselves



Improved Metrics

Enhanced attendance, engagement, and student safety across the school

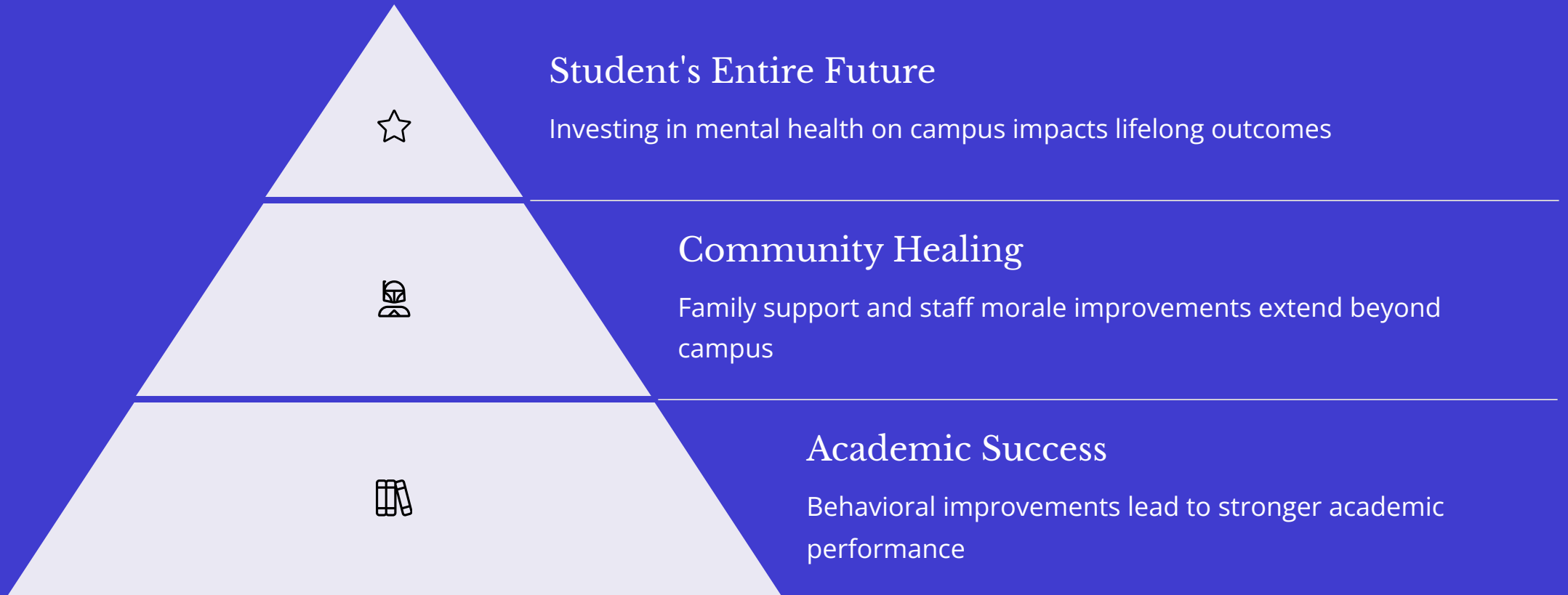


Principal Testimonial

"This grant allowed our school to finally give students what they truly needed—someone to listen, someone to help, someone they could trust." — Principal, FL

School leaders across the nine funded states have reported transformative changes in their school climate, student well-being, and staff morale following the implementation of SBHSN-funded programs. The placement of dedicated mental health professionals has created a foundation for sustainable improvement in both academic and social-emotional outcomes.

Conclusion & Future Vision



The SBHSN-funded model proves that when we invest in mental health on campus, we invest in a student's **entire future**. From behavioral improvements to stronger academic performance, and from family healing to staff morale, the reach of this program cannot be overstated.

Moving Forward: SBHSN's Vision

Expand Access

Reach an additional 820 schools with mental health professionals and Transitional Coaches

Deepen Training

Provide comprehensive trauma-informed education training for all school staff

Secure Sustainable Funding

Advocate for Medicaid and federal support to continue these efforts without interruption

Moving forward, SBHSN seeks to build on the successful foundation established during the 2020-2025 grant cycle, expanding both the reach and depth of school-based mental health services across America.

To the Future



William Alvarez

Program and Grant Services