

Safe and Supported Texas Schools

A Blueprint for Scaling and Sustaining Student Supports



The H. E. Butt Foundation has developed the Safe and Supported Texas Schools Blueprint to build capacity in districts to scale and sustain student support services. In collaboration with 21 contributors, the team of experts drew from relevant research and combined experience to create a resource that will help districts review the landscape of student support services and align funding for a return on investment to increase average daily attendance, academic performance, college/career readiness and teacher retention following a phased approach.

The evidence is clear and consistent, and the Blueprint is designed to help districts act on it regardless of size, location, or available resources. This is designed for superintendents, CFOs, school board members, and other academic leaders to use as an essential mapping tool in their district's toolbox to achieve success.

Every **\$1 invested** in school-based supports **saves taxpayers**
\$7 in incarceration and criminal justice intervention.

Making the Case

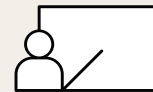
Upstream student supports are less expensive, lead to safer and healthier pathways for students, and help retain quality teachers. The economic impact of school supports is nearly 10 times the impact of reducing class size. When we invest in both physical and psychological safety, we reduce violence and lower criminal justice costs, reducing the financial burden for everyone.



San Antonio's East Central ISD moved from 36% College Career Military Readiness to 96% through intentional upstream investments.



Harvard Longitudinal Study gives evidence that 3 years of integrated student supports by Communities In Schools increased annual and lifetime earnings.



Retaining even one teacher can save a district \$12K - \$25K per teacher in replacement costs.

Navigating Funding

While state and federal funding streams allow for investments in psychological safety, there are competing priorities and mandates for limited dollars. The Texas School Safety Allotment can be used for school support personnel and prevention programming; however, these dollars are often absorbed by urgent safety demands. Texas has 21 statutory directives requiring investments in student supports. Only one of those directives has a dedicated funding stream. Consistency in funding that builds success is almost non-existent.

Prevention pays in phases:



The Safe and Supported Texas Schools Blueprint provides step-by-step instructions to paint a clear funding picture of resources and programs. With an accurate overview, leaders can find modest shifts in the flow of dollars to protect prevention efforts without destabilizing other priorities.

1

Analyze data to prioritize psychological safety



Worksheet: *Psychological Safety Data Analysis*

2

Map funding sources for existing programs and resources



Worksheet: *Funding Landscape Analysis*

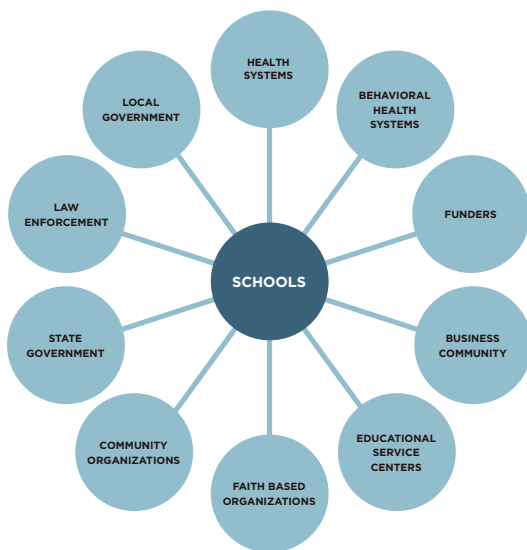
3

Evaluate effectiveness of existing programs and resources



Worksheet: *Plus/Delta Program Evaluation*

Strengthening District Partnerships & Galvanizing Community Support



No school system can meet the complex needs of students and funding challenges alone. When built intentionally, cross-sector collaborations accelerate outcomes and create sustainable impact. What often makes a difference is alignment—bringing together partners, dollars, and strategies for scale.

When families, educators, community leaders, and local partners understand the impact of psychological safety in schools, they become powerful advocates. The Blueprint provides tools to help messengers communicate clearly about why safe and supportive schools matter.

Texas schools must navigate increasing expectations around safety, student wellbeing, and academic performance. Psychological safety is foundational to academic success, workforce readiness, public safety, and economic resilience.

Through proactive systems of care and support, schools can create environments where challenges are identified and addressed early, and everyone has the opportunity to learn and thrive.