

Safe and Supported Texas Schools

A Blueprint for Scaling and Sustaining Student Support Services



What is The Blueprint?

- A **four-part tool** to build student support capacity
- Built on **research** and **experience**
- ROI framework linking student supports to **important outcomes**:
 1. Average Daily Attendance
 2. College Career Military Readiness
 3. Teacher Retention
 4. Threat Mitigation
 5. School Savings and revenue

Co-designed By:

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School Leaders
Community Partners
Philanthropy
Law Enforcement
Mental Health Professionals
Advocacy Professionals



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Making the Case for Scaling and Sustaining Student Support Services

When districts prioritize psychological safety by layering and analyzing supports across whole-child MTSS systems, the supports translate into:

- Graduation success
- Postsecondary readiness
- Teacher retention
- Economic mobility



Research Shows Integrated Student Supports Drive Longterm Economic Outcomes

A Harvard longitudinal study examining Communities In Schools model found

\$1,140

Earning increase after three years compared with peers

**MORE THAN
\$75K**

In lifetime earnings increase for students after three years of school supports

\$2.36

Returned in tax revenue for every \$1 invested

\$7,100

Of additional federal tax revenue generated by each student

**NEARLY
10X**

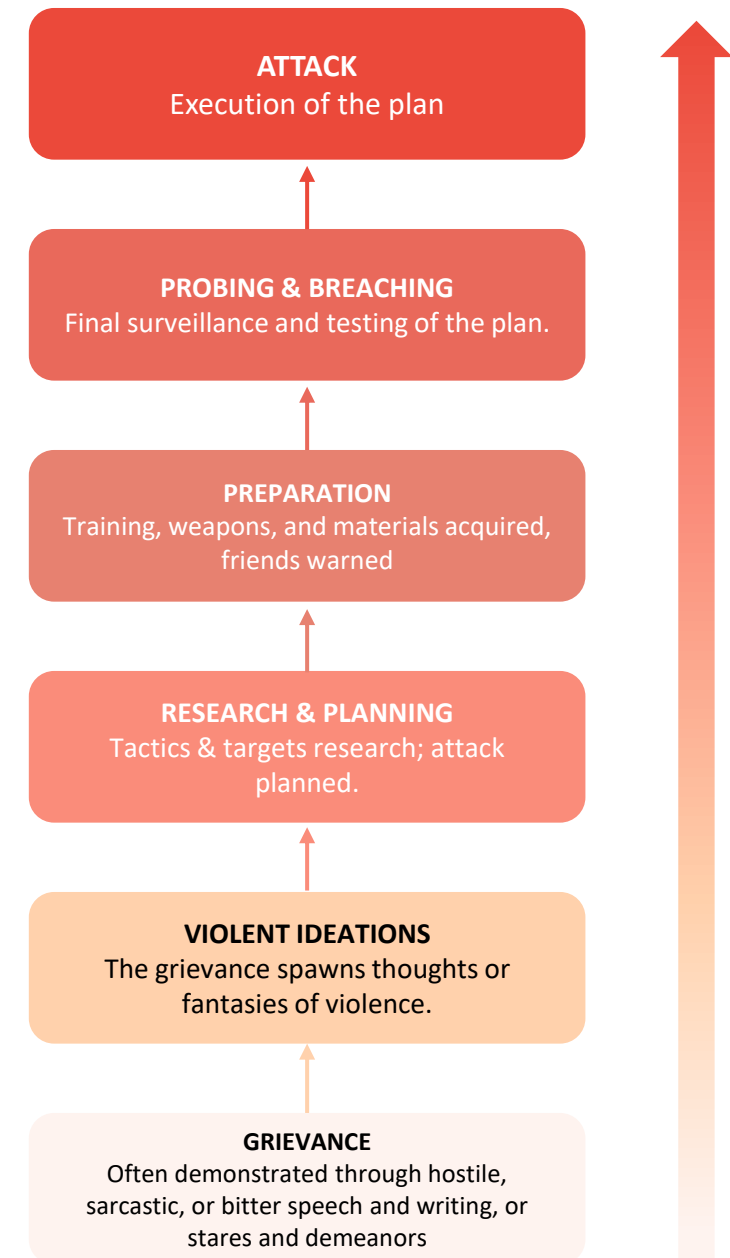
The impact of reducing class size.

Student Supports are Key to Student Safety

Early Engagement

- Mitigates threat
- Reduces violence
- Lowers Justice System involvement

\$7 returned in incarceration and criminal justice interventions for every **\$1** invested in school-based prevention.



Texas doesn't need to reinvent the wheel.

More than **99 Texas School Districts** were
on their way... Stronger Connections
Grants

We have

- Trained infrastructure
in every ESC
- 99 School Districts across Texas with
Experience
- TEA Framework for Safe and Supported
Schools

With sustained funding, this can be
expanded statewide.

Don't Forget the Teachers: Safe & Supported Schools Begin with Supported Adults

When teachers leave, the system loses more than people

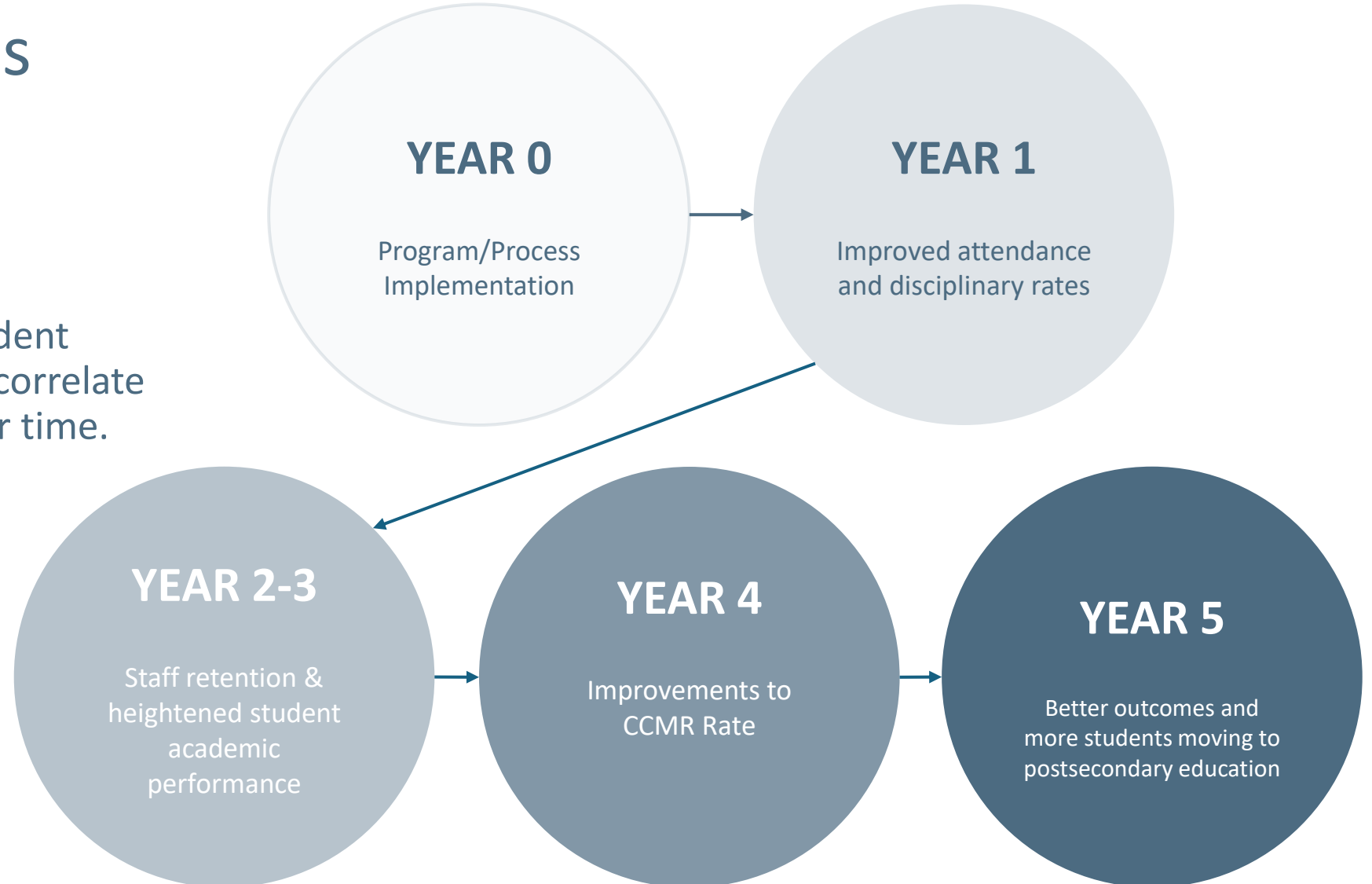
- 75% of Texas teachers considered leaving their position last year
- 50% of teachers report feeling burned out
- Retaining a teacher saves a district \$12-\$25K

13.44% was the rate of attrition by TEA for Texas school teachers in 2022-2023 compared with **10%** pre-pandemic



Growing Benefits Over Time

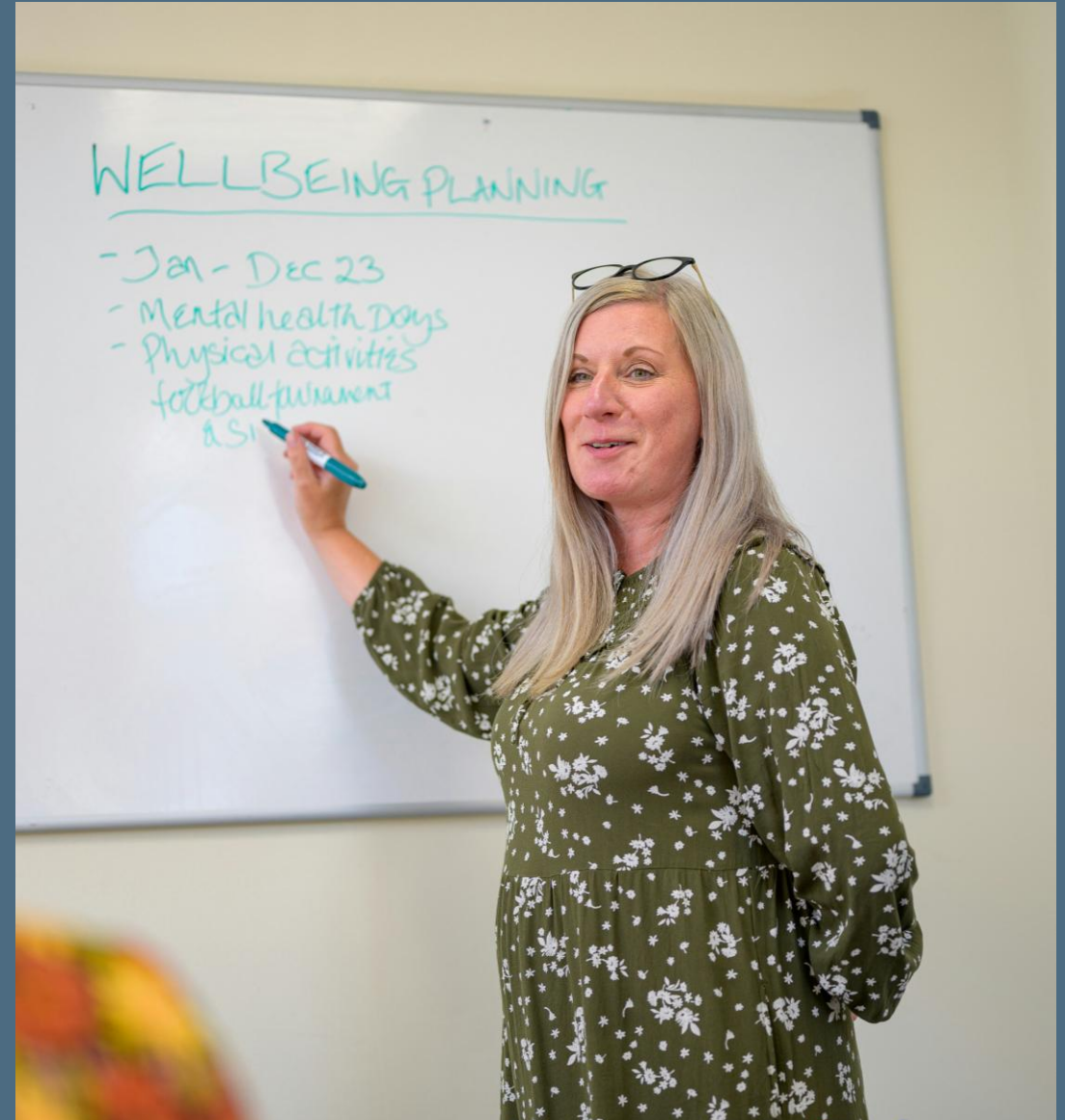
The benefits of upstream student supports are immediate and correlate with academic outcomes over time.



Taking Steps to Prioritize Psychological Safety

Districts need resources to see the return on investment of student support serves.

- Evidence-based interventions
- Trained staff
- Master scheduling
- Data collection and reporting
- Discipline and behavior policies
- School climate efforts
- Adequate funding



1

Shift from the Dancefloor to the Balcony

- Districts are already implementing student supports but often operate in siloes
- Districts collect data that may not be analyzed through a collaborative student support lens
- The formation of a Collaborative Need Assessment Team can help build capacity for prioritizing psychological safety

2

Assemble the Right Team

Collaborative Needs Assessment Team with knowledge and expertise in

- District Student Demographics
- General Academic Performance Trends
- District Climate Survey (students, staff, families)
- SSSP and Crisis Response Team Data
- Exclusionary Discipline Trends
- Chronic Absenteeism and Attendance Trends
- Guidance and Counseling Data
- MOUs, External Funders, and Community Partnerships

3

Collaborative Needs Assessment Team Focus

- Mapping District Resource Needs
- Reviewing the Funding Landscape for Psychological Safety
- Evaluating what's Working and What Needs Improvement
- Building and Strengthening District Partnerships Framework
- Galvanizing Messengers

4

Navigating Funding

District leaders are making complex funding decisions every day. Safety, staffing, academics, compliance, facilities – all competing for the same resources. Even when funds allow for psychological safety, they are often absorbed by urgent demands.

School Safety Allotment Opportunity. May be used for:

- Behavioral health programming, suicide prevention, and intervention
- Licensed Counselors
- Mental health personnel and support staff

School Safety Bills

88th SESSION: HB3 – School Safety Bill (2023)

- Requires an armed security officer on every campus
- Stricter emergency plans
- Permits a range of psychological safety options that align with TEA's Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Ongoing 89th Legislature Updates (2025)

- Doubled funding (minimally covers cost of armed guard)
- Retained psychological safety

**Code 48.115 spells out mandates and permissible uses under the School Safety Allotment*

Small Shifts can Unlock Additional Dollars

The funding problem is not always lack of permission – it’s lack of alignment.

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ONLY
13% Of districts used School Safety Allotment (SSA) funds for psychological safety

.....

ONLY
1.39% Of all SSA funding supported prevention

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SMALL CHANGES, BIG RESULTS

Dedicating just 5% of SSA funds equals an investment of roughly **\$3.66 per student** or **\$100,000 per district**.

It’s not about adding something new. It is about understanding the full funding picture—**making small shifts that have the highest potential for unlocking additional dollars.**

Invitation

- **Work the Blueprint** – Show what you know
- Make small budget shifts for **bigger impact**
- **Share** your story and join others
- Lean into prevention and **strengthen Student Supports** in your schools