



Bismarck Public Schools

News Release

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www.bismarckschools.org

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Simle Middle School to assist two ND schools with children's behavioral health pilot grants

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division has awarded funding for the expansion of a children's behavioral health prevention and early intervention pilot grant to Dunseith Public School and Barnes County North Public School near Wimbledon, N.D.

Each district will receive \$75,000 to build a comprehensive strategy to improve children's behavioral health in school settings by using a fully-integrated continuum of support that includes health promotion, primary prevention, treatment and recovery that can be shared with other North Dakota schools in the future.

In 2018, Simle Middle School in Bismarck was awarded the first pilot grant to integrate behavioral health prevention and early intervention strategies into existing educational and support systems for students. Last session, North Dakota lawmakers provided funding to expand the behavioral health pilot grant to a rural and tribal school.

One resource that will help guide the prevention and early intervention pilot grant in Dunseith and Barnes County is a workbook created by Simle educators and administrators. It outlines step-by-step their implementation process, which the new grantees will be able to utilize and customize based upon their enrollment size and behavioral health needs of their students.

“Representatives from Simle Middle School will play an instrumental role in rolling out the expanded pilot grant by sharing lessons learned and mentoring representatives from the Dunseith and Barnes County North public schools for the next year,” says the Behavioral Health Division's Assistant Director Laura Anderson.

Additional contact information: Laura Anderson, 701-328-8918, lauranderson@nd.gov.

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About Bismarck Public Schools: We educate more than 13,000 students at 16 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 4 high schools, 2 career and technical facilities, and a preschool services center.

Mission: Empower every learner to thrive. Vision: Together, our strong relationships build inclusive, collaborative, and innovative environments that create agency and inspire a passion for learning, excellence and discovery. Values: Excellence, Innovation, Inclusion, and Leadership.