The 2020-2021 school year proved to be one of the most challenging and unfamiliar years in history. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the San Mateo County Office of Education and the 12 school districts participating in the MHSSA grant were able to provide much needed services and support to their students, staff, and families.

We were excited to be able to provide Care Solace’s services to five of the MHSSA districts for the length of the grant and even more excited that we were able to secure funding for a 6-month pilot for the remaining districts, allowing us to partner with Care Solace to support all 24 of our school districts. The 6-month pilot was a smashing success and proved to be a needed service for our schools.
SMCOE is thrilled to announce that we have secured funding through the Peninsula Health Care District, Sequoia Healthcare District, MHSSA, and other grants to offer Care Solace to all 24 districts for the next 3 years. Linkage to mental health services is imperative now as students prepare to return to in-person learning and the trauma from the pandemic, wildfires, national news, and academic stress compound the trauma and anxiety that existed previously.

We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year, Grant Year 2 of the MHSSA grant, and hopefully having all students back on campuses for in-person learning. We will begin the school year by bringing in on-site supports and targeted Social Emotional Curriculum to districts who would benefit most from them. In addition, all districts will have access to universal screeners and data collection and analysis.

As we close out the 2020-2021 school year, the SYSTEM Support team at SMCOE is proud of all the work our districts have taken on during an ongoing pandemic.

Molly Henricks
SYSTEM of Support Manager
Coordinator, School Safety & Risk Prevention
San Mateo County Office of Education