The 2021-2022 school year started with all students returning to full in-person learning and many districts emphasizing social-emotional learning (SEL) to help students feel more supported coming back to campus. Several districts used this opportunity to fully implement the SEL curriculum funded by the MHSSA grant through the Success for Youth and Schools through Trauma-Informed & Equitable Modules (SYSTEM) Support project.

Districts like the Pacifica School District welcomed students back on campus with Morning Circles and Spotlight Students, part of Caring School Communities Curriculum from The Center for the Collaborative Classroom, to help them connect and learn more about their fellow peers.

Care Solace continues to be a vital resource in all San Mateo County school districts. This year, it has been able to expand services to all of charter schools in the county. Within the first six to eight weeks of school, more than 150 students, families, and staff have been successfully matched to mental health providers using Care Solace.

Our Phase II districts (Bayshore, Jefferson Elementary, Jefferson Union, and Pilarcitos High School in Cabrillo Unified) welcomed newly hired counselors, social workers, and wellness staff onto their campuses through this grant. These supports are vital to address the rise in mental health needs on campus and improve the well-being of our students and staff.

Aside from implementation of SEL curriculum and onboarding of mental health staff, project work in SYSTEM support includes collaboration with the American Institute for Research, Qualtrics, and data analysts at the County Office of Education to create SEL implementation surveys, universal screeners, and a data dashboard to collect and report out success and gaps in services. In September, a SEL Implementation Survey was sent out to all MHSSA districts to collect motivation, readiness, and feasibility from district staff on implementing SEL. Principals were asked the following questions:

How would you rate your level of commitment to implementing social and emotional learning approaches in your school?  

- Extremely Committed: 36%
- Very Committed: 61%
- Committed: 4%
- Somewhat Committed: 4%

How would you rate your level of commitment to implementing the Community Resiliency Model in your school?  

- Extremely Committed: 32%
- Very Committed: 43%
- Committed: 4%
- Somewhat Committed: 21%

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