PRIORITIES FOR ENHANCING SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

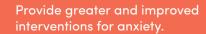
AND YOUTH

To enhance school mental health services for all children and youth, we must:

The American
Academy of Pediatrics
declared a state of
emergency for child
and adolescent mental
health in 2021.

Refine and improve the school and community infrastructure for mental health services.

Amplify Tier 1 supports to address growing mental health needs and prevent severe illness.



Elevate teacher, student and parent/caregiver voices.



To enhance school mental health services for **children and youth who are racialized**, we must:

Over the past decade, Black youth suicide rates have increased faster than any other racial or ethnic group. Reduce barriers to services by increasing cultural match between providers and clients, addressing high costs and increasing the number of providers.

Shift the school's culture toward inclusion, beginning with meaningful professional development for all school administration and staff.

Eliminate discipline policies, procedures and practices that are punitive rather than supportive.

Create interventions that explicitly connect racial identity and mental health, including intersecting identities (such as race and gender).





Read more about our recommendations at socialwork.buffalo.edu/schoolmentalhealth

