



August 16, 2022

RE: Udate on Student Mental Health Screening Tool – DPHHS and OPI

Timeline:

The RFP closes 9/2, and we plan to have selected the contractor(s) by 9/19. Our goal is to have at least 10 schools utilizing the contractor with at least one instance of school-wide universal screening taking place during the 22/23 school year in each school.

Supports:

The RFP outlines contractor expectations related to supports for schools in a comprehensive manner, from planning to implementation to data and outcome tracking.

These expectations include:

- Establishing a screening process and procedures (which includes evidence-based mental health and substance use screenings),
- the timing and frequency of screening,
- the screening mechanism or technology platform,
- proctoring methodology,
- and the collection, use, and storage of data.

The contractor must establish a referral process and procedure for every level of indicated need, with particular attention to those identified as high risk. The referral process must include the establishment of a network of providers eligible to provide mental health and/or substance use services in Montana.

The contractor will provide suggested policies for schools to implement based on either opt-in or opt-out consent. The contractor will provide resources for school partners to include information related to the efficacy of universal screening, procedural guides, implementation plans, informed consent templates, parent and student information letter templates, training videos, parent and teacher focused informational videos, youth assessment information, and mental health resource lists.

Data:

The contractor will collect and report on the many metrics, including non-identifying demographic information, results of screeners, and number of referrals.

