

Resolution in Support of Funding Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid Training

WHEREAS, the NC Task Force for Safer Schools prioritizes the mental health and well-being of students in North Carolina public schools; and

WHEREAS, one in five children experience a mental health condition, often undiagnosed, which can significantly impact their academic success and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, early identification and intervention for mental health concerns are crucial in promoting student resilience and creating a positive school climate; and

WHEREAS, Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is a nationally recognized program that empowers adults and parents with the skills to recognize signs and symptoms of mental health challenges in youth, offer initial support, and guide them to appropriate resources; and

WHEREAS, Teen Mental Health First Aid (TMHFA) is a nationally recognized peer-to-peer model that equips teens between the ages of 15 and 18 and students in grade levels 10 through 12 to identify and support peers facing mental health challenges while including a trusted adult and/or YMHFA advocate to assist during a mental health challenge; and

WHEREAS, widespread implementation of YMHFA and TMHFA trainings for school staff, educators and other stakeholders can create a network of support within schools, fostering a more responsive and caring environment for students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NC Task Force for Safer Schools recommends funding to expand YMHFA and TMHFA training programs in North Carolina public schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force supports the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services development of a sustainable funding plan for YMHFA and TMHFA training initiatives, ensuring its accessibility for educators and school personnel across the state.

Submitted by:

William L. Lassiter
Chair, NC Task Force for Safer Schools
Deputy Secretary for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
NC Department of Public Safety

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