Project Transform: Trauma-Engaged Schools

U.S. Department of Education: Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Early Phase Grant
Project Period: January 2023 - June 2028
A Trauma-Engaged Approach to Improve Social, Emotional, and Academic Outcomes

Partners:

- Chatham School District
- Copper River School District
- Juneau Borough School District
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District
- Lower Kuskokwim School District
- Sitka School District
- North Slope School District
- Lower Yukon School District
- Yupiit School District

Project Overview:

Project Transform leverages funding from the US Department of Education and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to build on the evidence base for creating trauma-informed school environments and uses evidence-based professional development strategies to support educator practices. The project includes a 2-year comprehensive professional learning program for school staff using the Transforming Schools framework and provides supports to schools in developing and carrying out school-level strategies for building a trauma-engaged school (TES).

Short-Term Outcomes: Preliminary project results show improvements in staff confidence and skills with using trauma-engaged practices, improved staff wellbeing, and better school-wide approaches for addressing trauma.

"Some of the most transformational PD that I've ever participated in during my career. I feel so supported by the AASB staff."
-Project Transform participant

Long-Term Outcomes: Trauma-engaged approaches are linked to improved school climate, student academic and behavioral outcomes, and student social-emotional skills.

Timeline: Part of this project is to rigorously evaluate the impact of the Project Transform activities on academic achievement, student behavior, and social-emotional skills, compared to schools that have not (yet) implemented Project Transform activities. In order to do this, schools that opted-in were randomly assigned to an implementation timeline (Cohort 1, Cohort 2, or Cohort 3):

For more information about which of your district schools are in each cohort, **Click Here**

2023 - 2024 School Year	2024 - 2025 School Year	2025 - 2026 School Year	2026 - 2027 School Year	2027 - 2028 School Year
Cohort 1 (YR 1)	Cohort 1 (YR 2)			
	Cohort 2 (YR 1)	Cohort 2 (YR 2)		
			Cohort 3 (YR 1)	Cohort 3 (YR 2)

Services (Activities) Included in Project Transform 2-year Implementation Period

Annual Foundations Training

Goal: To improve educators' understanding of trauma and their role in supporting a trauma-engaged school

Timeframe: 2 trainings, at the beginning of each school year

District Participants: Full staff team at participating school sites

- Introduces the TES model and builds the initial knowledge and skills of staff
- Each staff member will complete a self-assessment to identify priorities for their individualized learning.

Incentivized Ongoing Professional Learning Opportunities

Goal: To support educators to utilize trauma-engaged practices

Timeframe: Up to 7 hours per month during 2-year cohort period

District Participants: School staff, opt-in

- Monthly group and individual learning opportunities
- Self care and wellness support
- UAA credits and cash incentives provided directly to staff participants

Planning and Capacity Building Activities

Goal: To build school's capacity to implement a TES approach

Timeframe: 1x monthly meetings during 2-year cohort period

District Participants: Small team at each school led by site-level coach

- Planning and implementing school-level components of a trauma-engaged model
- Policy and structure



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