

## **THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK**

The Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Office, has fostered the development of a network of approved school-based mental health programs within Arkansas public school districts. These approved programs are grounded in and based on the following principles:

- An emphasis on early intervention
- Full integration with the community and its resources
- Placing students and their families at the center of service decisions
- Providing services that are culturally competent
- A focus on promoting school attendance and academic success
- Services and supports validated by research and evidence-based practices
- The use of technology, including telecommunications

Access to a full array of mental health services is available at the school site within these approved programs. Network school-based mental health services are characterized by the following:

- Student supports
- Availability of “pullout” interventions including evaluation, crisis services, diagnosis, individual, group, and/or family therapies, counseling, and day treatment
- Comprehensive intake, referral, and case management processes
- Access to school-based mental health services without regard to student or family Medicaid enrollment status
- Appropriate linkages with community, regional, state, and national resources
- Participation in Title XIX, Medicaid, either through provider enrollment or purchased service contracts
- Maximum utilization of alternative funding streams, including third party payors, public targeted and competitive grants, and private foundation funds

Once approved, school-based mental health programs in the network have access to these resources through the Arkansas Department of Education:

- Financial and technical assistance, as needed
- Formalized best practices sharing among the network of approved programs
- Current and topical evidence-based research focused on Arkansas school-based mental health data
- Specialized training targeting Arkansas school-based mental health service delivery issues and practices