

Annual Report 2024-2025



Onondaga County and School District Partnerships





23M

Onondaga County
Investment into 19 County
School Districts in SY 2024-
2025

7 M

School District Matching of
County Dollars in SY
2024-2025



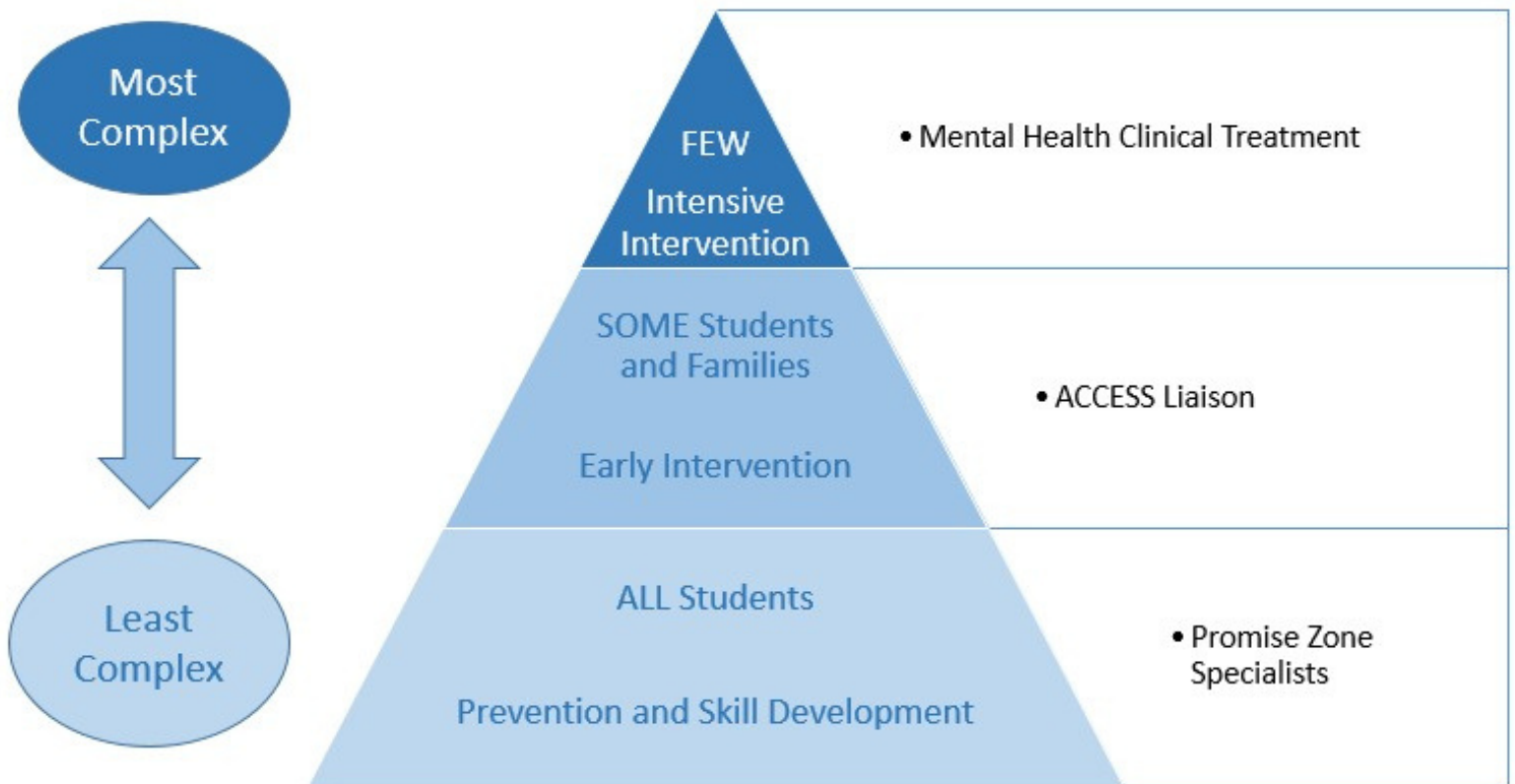
School Systems of Care - Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

The Onondaga County and School District Partnership works to establish a system of care that ensures children and families that may be struggling are identified and supported with targeted interventions. In the 2024-2025 school year, Onondaga County invested over 17.3 Million in this effort.

Onondaga County's significant investments in children's mental health and school based programs has led to shared learning and action in ensuring youth who are struggling can be identified and receive interventions.

Co-location of services, such as outpatient children's mental health care, within the school setting is an approach that advances access to quality care and improves academic outcomes. This partnership provides a unique opportunity to identify those children and families who might not otherwise seek treatment and strengthens the capacity for earlier recognition and treatment options. Co-location of supports and services in schools fosters an atmosphere that recognizes the interconnectedness between education and mental health and paves the way to improved outcomes.

Onondaga County-Wide Funded MTSS Supports



School Based Outpatient Mental Health Clinics

2,500

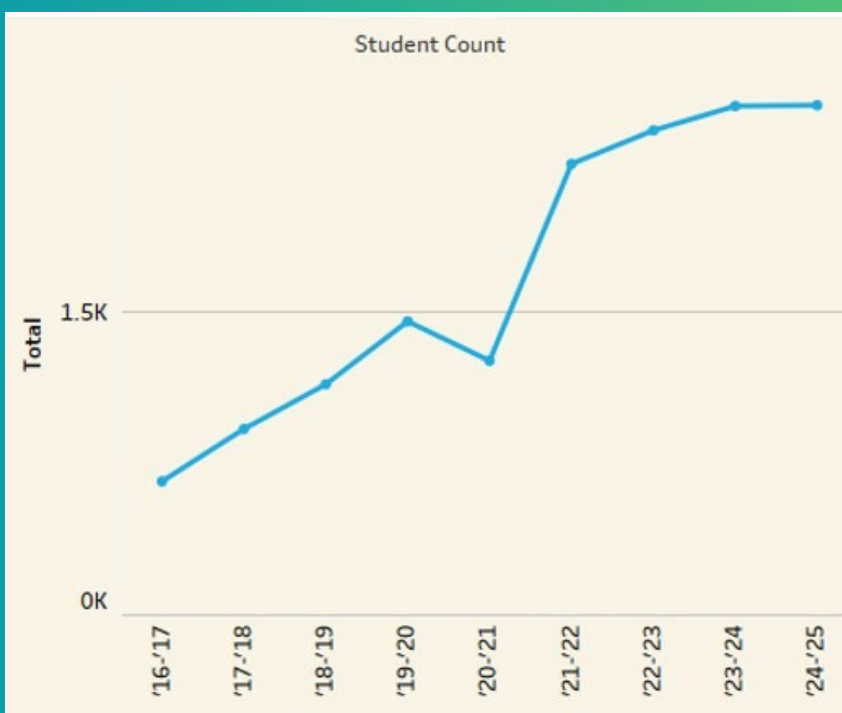
National Prevalence data states that 10-20% of youth face mental health challenges. In response to this, Onondaga County has supported the implementation and delivery of School Based Mental Health Clinics through partnership with Helio, Liberty Resources and Upstate Medical University.

Approximate number of students supported by School Based Mental Health Clinics in SY 2024-2025

\$8M

By bringing mental health services into schools, we make care more accessible for families, reduce time away from learning, and enable the collaborative partnerships that help children thrive.

Approximate financial impact of insurances billed for services in SY 2024-2025



86

Number of schools with embedded school based mental health clinics and 68.5 funded staff in SY 2024-2025

School Year 2024-2025

ACCESS School Liaisons -CCSI

Child and family serving cross systems team for Onondaga County through a "No Wrong Door" approach, Assisting families with children/youth experiencing emotional and/or behavioral challenges and/or other diverse needs with connection to best-fit services and support.

School Liaisons establish relationships with schools and take referrals to support children and families when child welfare concerns are present, but the issues do not rise to the level of calling the CPS hotline. The team works to assess, support, and plan with children and families experiencing social and emotional challenges. Families can self-refer with concerns. The team provides technical assistance/consultation to school staff when challenged with where to go next with cases.

2,889

School Based Referrals

121

Number of schools with assigned ACCESS School Liaisons



\$3M

Total budget supporting 28 staff in SY 2024-2025

School Year 2024-2025

Syracuse City School District ACCESS Attendance Project - CCSI

The Attendance Project is a targeted initiative designed to address chronic absenteeism among children and families in the Syracuse City School District who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Chronic absenteeism—defined as missing 10 percent or more school days—remains a significant challenge across the district, County and State. The project prioritizes schools with the highest levels of absenteeism in SCSD and aims to serve approximately 350 families annually, deploying 7 Attendance Liaisons to work directly with students and caregivers to identify and address barriers to regular school attendance.

The project began in the Spring of 2025. Attendance Liaisons provide intensive, family-centered support using a wraparound approach. Liaisons collaborate closely with school staff, families, and community partners to assess needs, develop individualized attendance plans, and connect families to appropriate services through the County's ACCESS "No Wrong Door" system.

4

Number of schools with assigned
ACCESS Attendance Liaison in
Spring of 2025

190

Number of unique individuals supported
with outreach

6

Staff Hired and Trained in Spring of
2025

School Year 2024-2025



Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists -CCSI

9,500

Students were supported by Promise Zone Specialists in SY 2024-2025

The Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialists work in K-12 public schools throughout Onondaga County. The focus of the work is around addressing student needs that are barriers to their classroom success. This includes, but is not limited to, behavior intervention, social emotional skill building, and support of attendance initiatives.

200K

Total interventions provided to students in SY 2024-2025

\$6.5M

Total Budget in SY 2024-2025

71

Funded staff positions supporting students located across Onondaga Schools in SY 2024- 2025





School Based Threat Assessment

Onondaga County utilizes a countywide, evidence-based Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management system to support school and community safety. More than 600 school staff and community partners have been trained in the Salem-Keizer Cascade Model, a standardized threat assessment model, ensuring a consistent approach to identifying, assessing, and managing potential threats across schools and community settings. This coordinated framework enhances communication, improves decision-making, and promotes timely interventions that support both safety and student well-being.

The County's threat assessment system includes a Level 1 Advisory Committee and a multidisciplinary Level 2 Threat Assessment Team operating in partnership with County DCFS, Probation, the District Attorney's office, community providers, schools and the Sheriff's Threat Assessment Management Team. During the 2024-2025 school year, the Level 2 Team reviewed 20 youth through structured, collaborative meetings focused on community safety and individualized support planning. By bringing together schools, mental health providers, child welfare, law enforcement, and other key partners, the team develops coordinated strategies to reduce risk, address underlying needs, and connect youth and families to appropriate supports, creating safer schools and communities while promoting positive outcomes for youth.



398

Families served

137

New Cases opened

Family Support for Student Success - CCSI

2,993

Home Visits to support families

Family Support for Student Success is a key partner in this broader investment of Onondaga County in the SCSD multi-tiered system of support.

FSSS addresses barriers to learning with the highest intensity through linking families and students to services inside and outside of school with a focus on absenteeism, trauma and behavioral concerns.

School Support Specialists and Family Support Specialists work jointly with a caseload of families on identified goals, interventions and activities to improve skill development and student success.

\$3,946,878

Total Budget in SY 2023-2024

52

Funded staff positions directly supporting students in 32 buildings

62% / 38%

NYS required match split (1.5 M from CNY Community Foundation)

School Year 2023-2024

Primary Project - Contact Community Services

Primary Project helps young students who may be struggling socially or emotionally in school. Children take part in weekly 30-40 minute play sessions with a trained adult. Over 12-15 weeks, these sessions build a trusting relationship that helps children feel more confident and improve their social skills.

77

Students that received 12 or more play sessions

PAX - Contact Community Services

The PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG) is an evidence-based, school-based prevention program that classroom teachers use. It is a universal program that teachers and school staff integrate into classrooms to promote self-regulation and positive behavior among students and increase teaching time. It is a proven culturally responsive, trauma-informed, research-based approach to teaching self-regulation, self-control, and self-management. PAX GBG produces lifetime results in reducing mental illness and substance abuse—while increasing high school graduation and college entry.

209

Teachers Supported

95%

Percent of supported classrooms that show a reduction in off-task or disruptive behaviors

Student Assistance Counselors - Contact Community Services

The Student Assistance Program provides high-school-based prevention, early intervention services in five Syracuse City School District high schools and one site at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. The Program is a barrier-free with the primary goal of delaying onset of and preventing and reducing adolescent substance use. Specific services include assessment and mental health counseling, information/education, resistance skills, social competency skills, communication, coping/stress/anger management, problem solving and decision making, and problem identification and referral.

532

Number of Students seen for counseling sessions

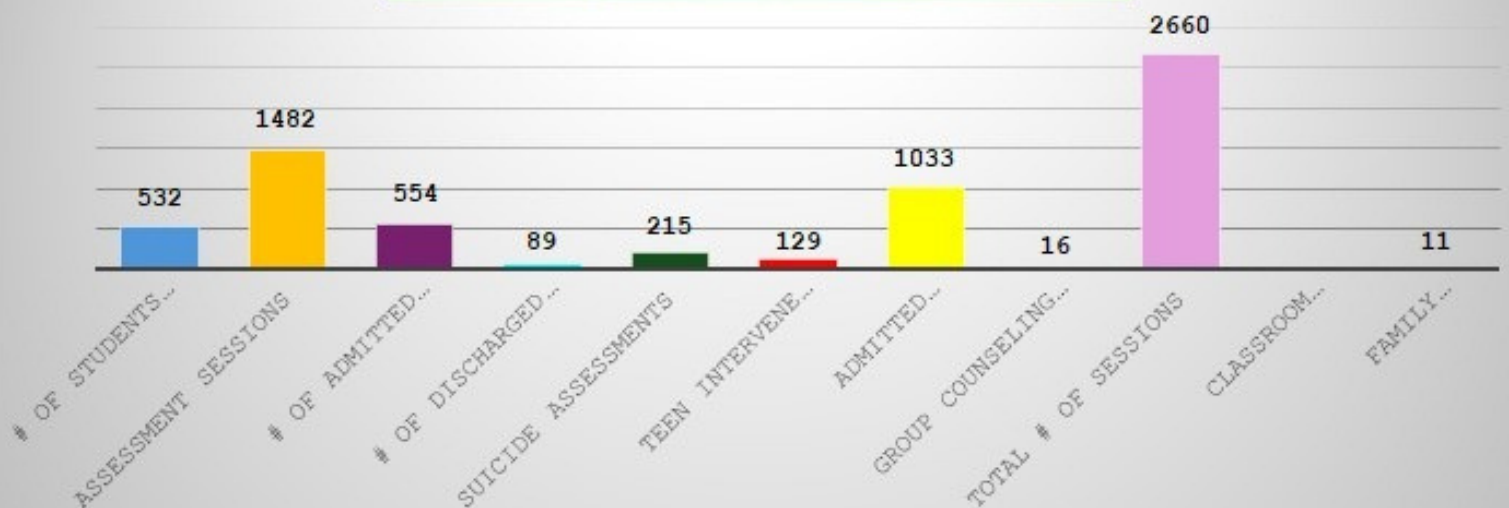
\$1M

Onondaga County funding for SAP

8

Funded staff serving 5 SCSD, FM and CNS High Schools

Summary of YTD Services



Seeds of Peace

InterFaith Works' Seeds of Peace program is designed to support the leadership development of SCSD high school students, helping them grow into the commitment to transform legacies of conflict into the courage to lead change. This program consists of summer opportunities and school-year initiatives including ongoing student-led school clubs, youth leadership development, and intra-district events.

\$30K

Total Budget

Building Men

Building Men helps young boys in the Syracuse City School District become successful men. It offers afterschool programming in the middle school and High School levels. It currently offers programming at 10 of the 12 middle level schools and 4 of the 5 high schools

\$7K

Total Budget

Peacemaking Project

The Syracuse Peacemaking Project (Restorative Justice Program) uses a community-based direct mediation and conflict resolution model that utilizes staff, advocates, and volunteers with relevant life experiences to help youth transform attitudes and behaviors around violence, conflict, and community. This support provides opportunities and spaces to bring people together for dialogue, conflict dispute resolution, community building, and family reunification.

\$60K

Total Budget

School Year 2024-2025

Child Care Workers at McCarthy at Beard Program

Onondaga County Child Care Workers support the students in the McCarthy at Beard program. Child Care Workers are dedicated to the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of children struggling with emotional challenges through providing a supportive environment to foster their emotional growth and well-being. This team engages with children daily through structured, supervised activities that align with each child's personalized plan. Our goal is to help each child reach their individual goals within a framework of compassion and professional guidance.

\$800,000

Onondaga County Funding

5

Funded Staff



School Year 2024-2025

“Together, we build bridges of opportunity and support, ensuring every student and family in our community thrives. Our partnership exemplifies the power of unity in creating brighter futures.”

County Executive Ryan McMahon