Project AWARE origin

After the Sandy Hook tragedy, President Obama enacted Now Is The Time (NITT) legislation which included funding related to social-emotional and mental health in schools. These funds became grants and Colorado was one of twenty states to receive the Project AWARE grant. Aurora Public Schools, along with Fountain-Fort Carson and Thompson districts, were awarded this grant by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

Project AWARE goals

- **Promote social, emotional, and behavioral health** while reducing risk factors leading to mental illness and violence by implementing research-based programs, services, and supports.
  - Supporting social, emotional learning (SEL) for all students through youth-serving adults
  - Providing training for youth-serving adults in suicide & crisis prevention, intervention, and post-vention

- **Build infrastructure and capacity** for implementing a coordinated, data-driven system for supporting the continuum of children's behavioral health needs with students, families, schools, and communities.
  - Providing courses for staff to teach social-emotional skills
  - Providing mental health first aid training
  - Creating a referral system between school & community based behavioral health providers

Contact Information

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Aurora Public Schools
Project AWARE
Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education
"Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions."

Connecting With Our Community

Project AWARE is dedicated to building connections between the Aurora community and Aurora Public Schools!

- We are building a behavioral health referral system that will provide a "warm hand-off" between the schools and community-based behavioral health providers. This system will also allow communication between families, school-based staff, and community-based providers to ensure better care for children.

- We are connecting community resources that support the health and wellness of children and families with our school-based behavioral health providers.

- We are training members of our community to provide some of our training along side us (e.g. Youth Mental Health First Aid).

- We are working with the community and community members to train mentors for our students.

For more information about training availability contact Jessica O'Muireadhaigh

Trainings Available

Aurora Public Schools Staff & Community

- Signs of Suicide (Student Curriculum)
- HEARTS (Trauma-Informed Schools)
- Check-In/Check-Out (Behavior Supports)
- Check & Connect (Mentoring Program)
- PREPaRE (Crisis Prevention & Response)
- Crisis Prevention & Intervention (CPI)
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

For more information about training availability contact Jessica O'Muireadhaigh

SEL in Schools

Project AWARE coaches are available to collaborate with schools to support SEL already in place & help build new systems based on each school's unique wants & needs.