

A School-Based Success Story

“Sam”* was having a tough time in school. He was failing, and teachers found his behavior challenging. School administrators asked him to see a Choices school-based clinical social worker. When the Choices clinician met with him, she grew concerned and performed a suicide assessment. Based on the assessment, she recommended Sam be admitted into acute care for a short stay. His family agreed.

Afterwards, the clinician continued working with Sam and advocated for him to continue taking his medication.

The care and attention our clinician provided helped Sam’s mental health and behavior. He’s now doing much better at school and at home.

*name changed to protect identity

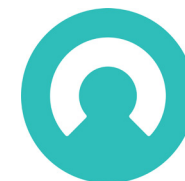
School-Based Services

On-site
mental health
support for
K-12 students

Contact Us

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317-450-8306



choices
COORDINATED CARE SOLUTIONS



About the program

One major challenge school districts face is effectively helping students who experience mental, behavioral, and physical health issues.

Choices offers school-based services that include one-on-one assessments for K-12 students who show signs of distress. Choices works closely with each school district to customize the kind of support its student body needs — from crisis intervention to talk therapy.

Impact

Early intervention is critical for young people. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) half of all lifetime cases of mental illness start by age 14.

Early identification of mental illness and substance use disorders and subsequent treatment improves outcomes for both students and schools. SAMHSA reports that early intervention through school-based mental health and substance use services: enhances academic performance, decreases the need for special education, reduces disciplinary encounters, and increases graduation rates.

Benefits for students

- Stigma-free mental health assistance
- Improved relationships at school
- Personalized plan built on strengths

We support youth regardless of Medicaid or insurance status

Many mental health providers are restricted to treating students who are Medicaid-eligible only. However, Choices provides school-based services to youth at no cost to them or to their family — no matter what their Medicaid or insurance status is.

Choices creates a custom program of services for each partner school district. It can include:

- Assessing mental health of referred students
- Assisting during crises
- Developing and implementing behavior plans
- Creating short-term educational or skill-building groups
- Supporting substance use recovery
- Providing talk therapy at school
- Coordinating additional mental or behavioral services
- Connecting eligible students with Medicaid
- Meeting with students during the summer

Once the program is in place, a Choices clinician is embedded within a school or school district to meet with referred students. The clinician provides short-term support — typically more than 100 days — at no cost to the student or family. They also will help determine whether additional services are needed and will work with the family to secure those resources.

Call or email us

Choices School-Based Services are available to participating school districts in Indiana.

If you're interested in the program, call Jennifer Ridge at [317-450-8306](tel:317-450-8306) or email schoolbased@choicesscs.org to get started.