

Why

Only 17% of students reported increased access to mental health services in 2021, while the overwhelming majority (83%) did not experience a change.

Awarded through SAMHSA, partnering with California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), CA Department of Education, Tulare County School Districts, Tulare County Community Partners, Educators, Families, and Tulare County Office of Education we are committed to advancing wellness and resiliency in education.

Through collaborative partnerships, ongoing training, and sharing of resources, Project AWARE will outreach to all students in Tulare County. The supports and resources for educators will create a connection.

Tulare County Office of Education Special Services designed Project AWARE Tulare to create a sustainable infrastructure to promote mental health awareness, provide drug and alcohol abuse prevention and intervention activities, and ensure access and connection to appropriate and effective behavioral health services for children and youth (grades K-12).



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PROJECT AWARE

Advancing Wellness & Resiliency in Education

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

**Tulare County
Office of Education**

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

K-12 Students and Families

Mental Health Awareness

The purpose of Project AWARE is to create a sustainable infrastructure to promote mental health awareness, provide drug and alcohol abuse prevention and intervention activities, and increase and improve access to culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate and trauma informed school and community based AWARE grant activities and services.

- **OVER 60%**  of youth with **major depression** **do not receive** any **mental health treatment**.

- According to SAMHSA's 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health,

8.2% of adolescents **aged 12 to 17**  **drank alcohol** in the **past month**

13.8% of adolescents **aged 12 to 17** used **illicit drugs** in the **past year**



Project AWARE Education

- Tulare County School District School Counselors
- CHOICES Provide Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention/Intervention Activities
- CHOICES School Safety
- Ensure Access & Connection to appropriate and effective behavioral health services

Mental Wellness Resource Team

- School Counselors
- Program Specialist
- Mental Health Professionals
- Educators
- Community Partners
- Specialist Prevention/Intervention Education
- Grant Coordinator



Project AWARE Goals

Goal 1

Increase **awareness** of mental health, substance use, and co-occurring issues among school-aged youth, and available school-based services to address those issues.

Goal 2

Increase **knowledge** of individuals who work with school aged youth to understand and detect the signs/symptoms of mental health, substance abuse/co-occurring disorders.

Goal 3

Increase **access** to and availability of culturally competent and developmentally appropriate programs to promote resilience building and mental health well-being for all school-aged youth.

Goal 4

Create and sustain **a school based mental health system** that is based on a three-tiered public health model to promote positive behavioral supports including universal support, targeted secondary prevention, and intensive intervention.

Goal 5

Develop a **referral pathway** system to connect youth with a serious emotional or behavioral health issues and their families to needed services.

Project AWARE Tulare will address these needs by providing awareness, education, and mental wellness activities, a three-tiered support structure, and pathways to services in the schools and surrounding communities.