

Proposal by Arkansas Mental Health in Education Association: Monies allocated for Prevention/Intervention in PreK-12 Public Schools for Social, Emotional and Behavioral intervention and prevention.

Arkansas Mental Health in Education Association (ARMEA) is a non-profit organization made up of Educational and Mental Health Professionals dedicated to achieving the following objectives:

The ARMEA Mission:

- To promote comprehensive-School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) programs throughout Arkansas
- To ensure quality, accountability and professionalism.
- To foster partnerships among educators, mental health professionals and the community.
- To enhance the wellbeing of all Arkansas students.

Reasons for Concerns:

- Mandates regarding Bullying and Suicide prevention

Suicide Ideation 2011-2012

- Clinton-11
- Shirley-16
- Greenwood-25 (2 parents of students committed suicide)

Bullying Incidents 2011-2012

- Clinton-29
- Shirley-9
- Greenwood-81

- Increased number of Early Childhood referrals for emotional and behavioral issues. As early as age 3 children are being identified as experiencing significant and challenging behavioral issues resulting in extreme classroom safety concerns, problems with effectively providing class instruction, and the possibility of student dismissal-expulsion. **Arch Ford EC SPED** program works on behalf of the school districts and currently employs two behavior consultants to serve the needs of students and teachers of public and private-pay preschool/childcare centers within the coop's 27 covered school districts over 7 counties.

1) Behavior referrals typically indicate a serious need for intervention including a)difficulties with severe harm to children, adults within the classroom, and the child themselves, b) social skill deficits / behaviors that greatly interfere with daily instruction to the point where the whole class is affected, and c)behavioral issues directly related to student disabilities

2) During the current 2011-2012 school year, behavior referrals are at an all time high with 107 referrals in early March. (2010-2011 end of the year total was 103). Referrals have been on a steady increase and show no signs of decreasing.

3) The majority of the early childhood behavior referrals are cases that involve situations which require additional positive support and intervention for success. The goal of our services is to work with educators to better equip them to manage the increasing amount of difficult behavior situations within the 3-5 year old age range and prepare the students for future school success.

- Diversity of needs in various school districts because of demographic issues, SES status- Mental Health issues cross all gender, cultural, and economic sectors.
- Supports needed by juvenile probation system-80% of South Sebastian County juveniles going through the court system are ordered to see SBMH therapists.
- High cost of residential care and need for supports when transitioning back to public school.