

Principles for Best Practice in School Mental Health: The School Mental Health Quality Assessment Questionnaire

Developed through a research grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, M. Weist, PI #1R01MH71015-01A1; 2003-2006.
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Principle 1: All youth and families are able to access appropriate care regardless of their ability to pay.
Principle 2: Programs are implemented to address needs and strengthen assets for students, families, schools, and communities.
Principle 3: Programs and services focus on reducing barriers to development and learning, are student and family friendly, and are based on evidence of positive impact.
Principle 4: Students, families, teachers and other important groups are actively involved in the program's development, oversight, evaluation, and continuous improvement.
Principle 5: Quality assessment and improvement activities continually guide and provide feedback to the program.
Principle 6: A continuum of care is provided, including school-wide mental health promotion, early intervention, and treatment.
Principle 7: Staff hold to high ethical standards, are committed to children, adolescents, and families, and display an energetic, flexible, responsive, and proactive style in delivering services.
Principle 8: Staff are respectful of and competently address developmental, cultural, and personal differences among students, families, and staff.
Principle 9: Staff build and maintain strong relationships with other mental health and health providers and educators in the school, and a theme of interdisciplinary collaboration characterizes all efforts.
Principle 10: Mental health programs in the school are coordinated with related programs in other community settings.

