

Assessing School Needs and Creating a Strategic Plan for Urban Communities

Integrated Student Supports Training Workbook

Introduction

Discuss

Community Norms:

Module 1

Activity 1: Case Study

Weiland Elementary is facing problems with absenteeism and low performance on state exams. Many students are on free and reduced-price lunch. School personnel have created safe spaces for students before and after school in response to community violence. Teachers are pressured with state requirements. Administration is struggling with behavior issues in classrooms due to a myriad of trauma experienced by the students.

Activity 2: Reflect

Based on the definition discussed, does your school have a group of people acting as a school support team? What form does your school support team take?

Who should be on your school support team?

What barriers do you face in creating a functioning school support team?

Activity 3: Match

School Support Team	Needs Assessment

Activity 4: Case Study Think – Pair – Share

Over the years, Burningham High School had formed a few scattered teams in an effort to formalize their mechanisms for assessing needs, planning supports, identifying students for case management, and moving them through a service provision process. But without clarity around roles and functions, the teams weren't working effectively. The leadership at Burningham decided to adapt and merge the existing teams and bring on other individuals to create a unified school support team that would create and manage those processes. In the end, the team included the following individuals:

- Counselor
- Attendance clerk
- Parent engagement specialist
- Assistant principal
- Social worker
- Integrated student supports coordinator
- Faculty lead
- School psychologist
- A parent committee member

The school support team:

- Met regularly
- Followed meeting best practices, including sending meeting notices and agendas in advance
- Had a role for each team member to fill
- Had a regular reporting process that included topics such as individual student progress, calendar updates, etc.

What are your thoughts regarding how Burningham High used its available resources?

What areas of the model do you agree with and/or disagree?

How would you be able to use this example in your own practice?

Activity 5: Practice – Fixing the Problem

Who could contribute insight to Weiland Elementary’s needs assessment?

Should those individuals only serve the needs assessment, or also contribute to the school support team?

School Support Team	Needs Assessment

Now that you’ve assigned certain school roles to the support team, what functions should those individuals serve?

Individuals	Function
	Official leadership – organization and decision making
	Advocate for integrated student supports activities
	Conduct needs assessment, determine goals and create school support plan
	Implement, monitor, and assess school support plan
	Refer students to, implement, and track case management
	Plan, implement, and track community partnerships
	Implement, monitor, and adjust supports