



School Mental Health Quality Improvement Spotlight New York

In 2016, the New York State Office of Mental Health received the first of two grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support the implementation and expansion of the System of Care framework statewide. A System of Care is defined as a comprehensive array of effective services and supports for children, youth, and young adults with or at risk for mental health or other challenges; it incorporates mental health promotion, prevention, early identification, and treatment. The state has been tasked with providing outreach, training, and technical assistance at the state, regional, and county level.

To engage Education in System of Care implementation, the Office of Mental Health began assisting districts in completing the School Mental Health Quality Assessment on the School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) System. The SHAPE System Assessment process aligned well with the System of Care implementation goals of including family/youth voice and community partners.

The demonstrated success of these districts led the Office of Mental Health, in partnership with the Expanded School Mental Health team at the University of Rochester Medical Center, to offer a free six-month learning collaborative focused on advancing high-quality school mental health systems and supports in districts across the state. As part of the collaborative, the participating districts used SHAPE to guide their quality improvement processes. The Office of Mental Health developed several implementation [tools and resources](#) to support the districts' work.

At the end of the collaborative, the participants reported increased knowledge, skill, and confidence in making changes across all areas of the School Mental Health Quality Assessment. One of the participating districts noted, "The SHAPE Assessment opened our eyes to areas that we need to focus on"

To learn more about New York State's System of Care and how they are using the SHAPE System, visit:
www.nyssoc.com

To learn more about the SHAPE System and the National Performance Measures, visit www.theshapesystem.com