

Tell Us Something BHERO GOOD

“Site Coordination is at the heart of the full-service community school model. It is really the catalyst that allows schools to take their programming to the next level through partnership.”

– Anne Williamson, Community Coordinator at CREA

SERVICE

SITE COORDINATION

SCHOOLS SERVED: As of the 2021-22 school year, the North Dakota Full-Service Community Schools (NDFSCS) Consortium supported a network of six Site Coordinators located throughout the state, serving approximately 2,400 North Dakota students collectively.

PARTNERS

North Dakota Full-Service Community Schools Consortium & Central Regional Education Association

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE: An NDFSCS Site Coordinator extends the capacity of a school by assisting students and families in overcoming barriers to learning. This individual is hired by the NDFSCS Consortium, collaboratively with a school teams, and is an employee of the Central Regional Education Association (CREA). As the employing agency of Site Coordinators, CREA provides talent recruitment, a collaborative hiring process, ongoing training, technical assistance, evaluation, and access to a network of role-alike professionals across the state.

INCEPTION

The North Dakota Full-Service Community Schools Consortium began its work in 2018 to support implementation of full-service community schools throughout North Dakota.

COST: The cost of Site Coordination varies per school site. Full-time equivalency is established based on school and community needs and resources. The NDFSCS Consortium is committed to supporting schools in exploration of potential funding opportunities to invest in Site Coordination.

IMPLEMENTATION JOURNEY— VARIES BY SCHOOL SITE

Schools today do not have the time nor internal capacity to provide all students and their families with the support they need to reach their fullest potential. Yet, bridging these gaps in support is what these stakeholders need to be successful in school and in life. The Full-Service Community School model is one in which schools, in collaboration with community partners, take a whole-child, whole-family approach to addressing student and family needs in one central space: the school itself.

SCHOOLS IN SITE COORDINATOR NETWORK

6

The North Dakota Full Service Community Schools (NDFSCS) Consortium began its work in 2018 to support implementation of full-service community schools throughout North Dakota. As such, the NDFSCS Consortium serves as a state-wide Network of support and a resource for local school leaders and community partners working collaboratively to coordinate comprehensive support in areas such as wellness, workforce readiness, and academic enrichment to help students, families, and communities thrive.

STUDENTS SERVED (SO FAR!)

**2400+ Students
throughout North Dakota**

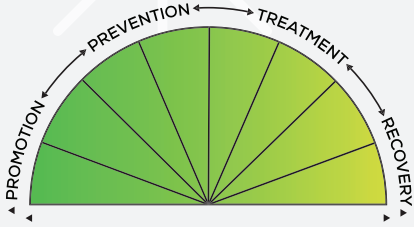
According to Anne Williamson, Community Coordinator at Central Regional Education Association, Site Coordination is one of four cornerstones critical to the implementation of the full-service community schools model.

“Site Coordination is at the heart of the full-service community school model,” Williamson said. “It is really the catalyst that allows schools to take their programming to the next level.”

The NDFSCS Consortium works with schools to hire a Site Coordinator, providing dedicated time to act as a community organizer in the school, identifying student and

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BH CONTINUUM OF CARE

The service of Site Coordination provides schools dedicated time to seek out programs and services that span the full Behavioral Health Continuum of Care through meaningful partnership and community collaboration.

family needs through data collection and building relationships with community partners who can help meet those needs. This individual serves as an extension of the school staff, allowing teachers and administrators to focus on providing high-quality educational experiences while ensuring that no students fall through the cracks.

“Site Coordinators allow schools to extend their own capacity. These are individuals with the dedicated time to build relationships to ensure successful partnership,” Williamson said. “They serve as the boots on the ground, inside the school building, advocating for enhanced programming.”

Lisa Klabunde is Secondary Principal at Wilton Public School, one of the first to become an NDFSCS School Site.

“We [in the school] don’t know where to partner for sponsorships or donations. That’s not our wheelhouse. We don’t always have time to look for partnerships, even though we really want to,” Klabunde said. “It just ends up being something that’s farther down our to-do list because the immediate needs [of students] in the school come first.”

Across North Dakota, NDFSCS Site Coordinators have built relationships with organizations like Great Plains Food Bank, Avel eCare, and Nexus-PATH Family Healing, providing students and their families with access to much-needed resources including nutritious food, physical and behavioral health care, and case management.

Through one such partnership with Nexus-PATH Family Healing, a licensed therapist is able to spend two days every week inside Ellendale Public School, serving a caseload of approximately 15 students through Targeted Case Management.

“We are going beyond academics and meeting additional dimensions of students’ needs,” said Ellendale Principal Michael Kaiser. “Those kids are receiving services right here rather than having to travel 45 or 50 minutes to a bigger area. We are filling a void that hasn’t been filled before.”

While a Site Coordinator plays an integral role in improving students’ educational experience, a background in education is not a prerequisite for the position. Current Site Coordinators come from diverse backgrounds, including human resources, entrepreneurship, and healthcare.

“While experience in schools can be helpful, what matters most is that Site Coordinators have the skills to connect, to build relationships, to coordinate partnerships, and have the belief that school is a great place to meet students and families where they are at,” Williamson said.

Regardless of a Site Coordinator’s background, through training and collaboration within the growing network of Site Coordinators, they will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to help students reach their full potential.

“There is a lot of power in the NDFSCS Site Coordinator Network,” Williamson said. “That team of peers, while they work in different schools with different needs, are able to share best practices and learnings, and problem-solve barriers. There is an incredible amount of connection within this network.”



WHO WE ARE.

A group of educators and advocates passionate about the importance of behavioral health in our schools and communities.



B-HERO Technical Assistance Center is a collaborative effort between Central Regional Education Association and the Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division.

GET INVOLVED

For schools interested in learning more about Site Coordination, please contact Anne Williamson.

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