



School-Based Behavioral Health Services Seclusion Working Group Meeting November 5, 2025

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Behavioral Health Services in Schools

Schools have a range of Behavioral Health services offered in schools by district staff and/or community partnerships that may include (but are not limited to):

- Psychotherapy
- Skills and Psychoeducation
- Consultation and Trainings for School Employed Staff
- Supports for Families
- Evidence Based Practices
- Special Education Services

Services may be covered through Minnesota Health Care Plan (MHCP), Federal Medicaid, and through School-Linked Behavioral Health Grants.

Behavioral Health Services in Schools



School-based community services (SBCS) are all behavioral health services identified as medically necessary provided by qualified health care professionals and reimbursed through Minnesota Health Care Programs (Medical Assistance).



Mental Health in Special Education (MH-SPED) are specific identified services that are provided to support youth in special education and allow for federal Medicaid reimbursement for students in Special Education from ages birth –22.



School Linked Behavioral Health (SLBH) is a grant program that serves and supports services to students that are uninsured or underinsured, and for services not otherwise reimbursable by other means. This program also extends to support training and education for teachers and parents through grant funding for school-based behavioral health services.

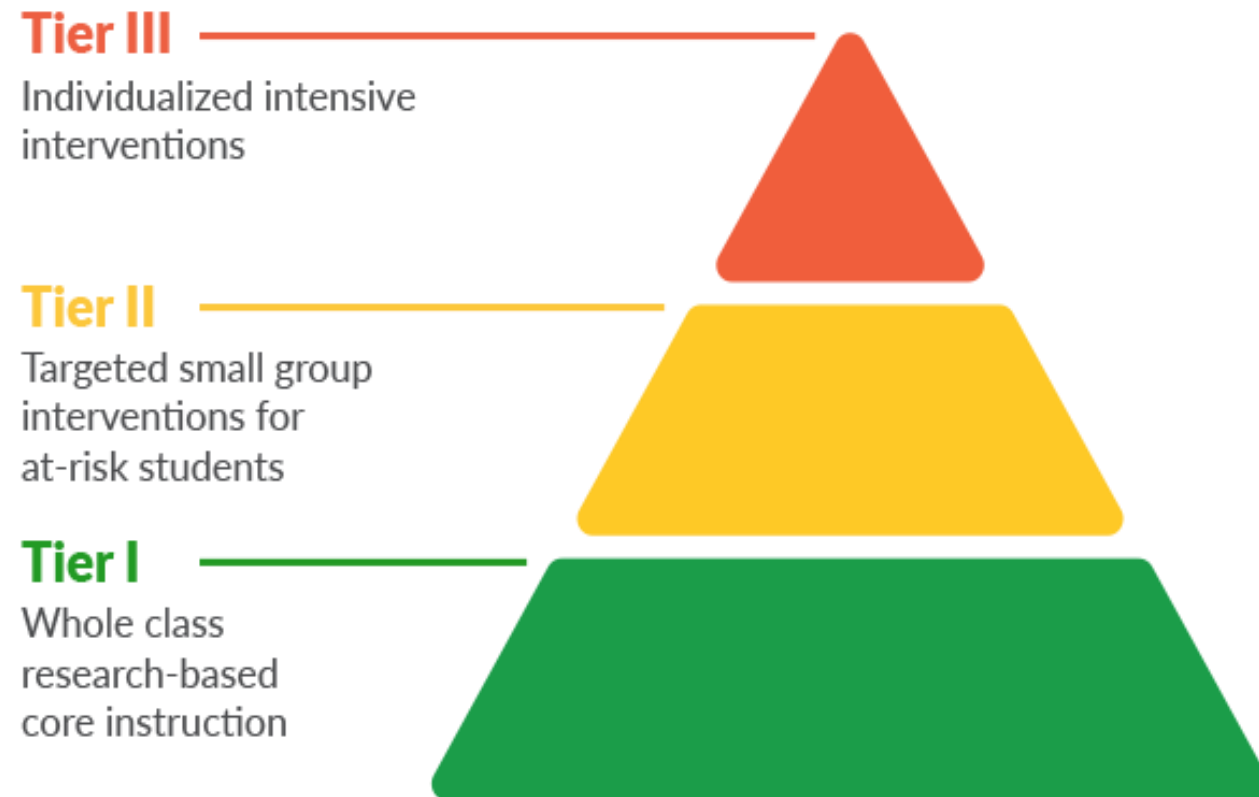
Benefits of School-Based Behavioral Health Services:

Youth are 6 times more likely to complete mental health treatment in schools than in community settings (Jaycox et al., 2010). Other benefits of school-based services include:

- ✓ Reduces barriers (transportation, insurance status, parent schedules, childcare, stigma)
- ✓ Equitable Access (bringing services to where students are)
- ✓ Promotes Early Identification and Intervention
- ✓ Enhances Student Well-Being and Learning
- ✓ Increases Engagement and Treatment Success
- ✓ Staff feel better prepared to identify and address concerns

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Minnesota School Based behavioral health services are recognized as part of the Nationally recognized model of Multi-tiered system of supports.



Overview of Student Support Distribution:

- **Tier 3 (Intensive Supports):** Historically supports 1–5% of students but now may exceed 20% in schools.
- **Tier 2 (Targeted Supports):** Designed for 15–20% of students needing additional interventions but trending upward.
- **Tier 1 (Universal Supports):** Serves 80–85% of students with core academic and behavioral strategies.

Source: Weist et al., 2023

MDE and DHS Collaboration

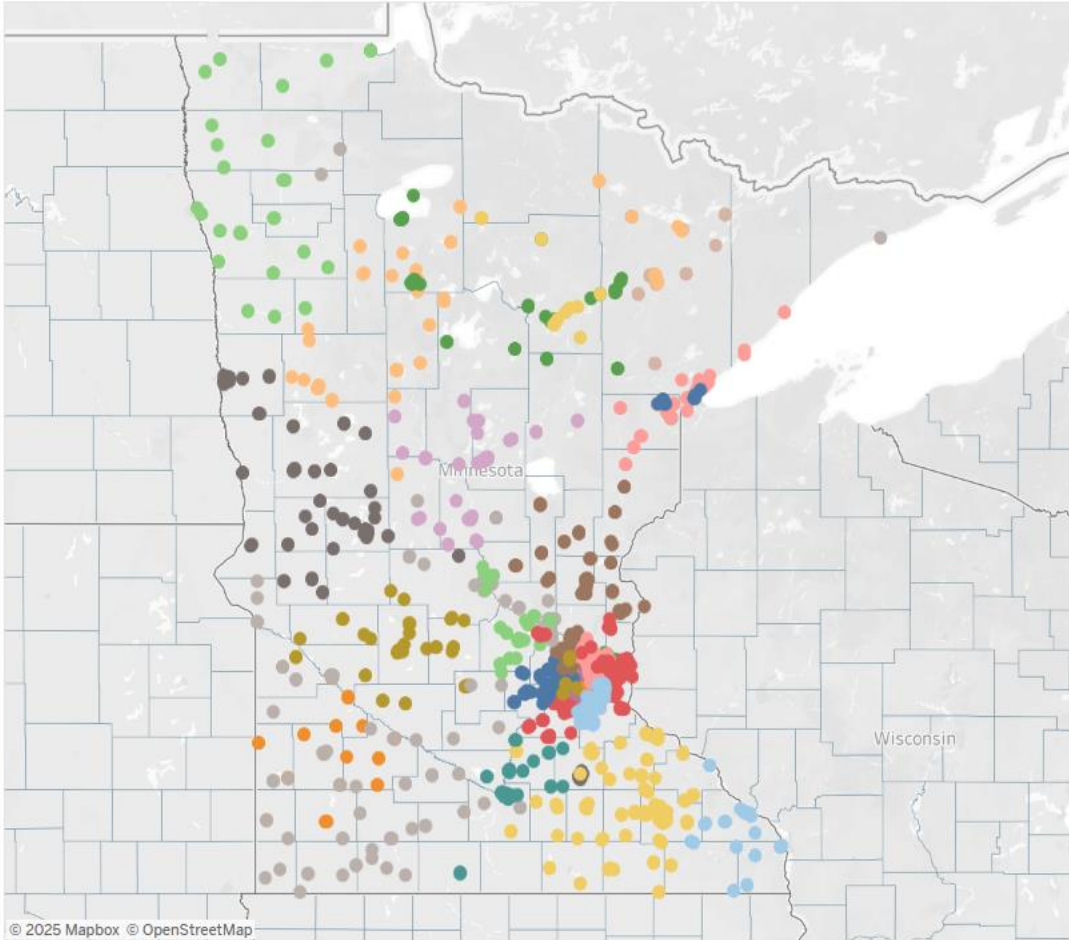
Since 2010, DHS and MDE have collaborated to meet the needs of youth in schools. Collaboration includes:

- Data Sharing Agreements to track trends, evaluate program impact, and make data-driven decisions.
- Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and School-Linked Behavioral Health (SLBH) alignment of interventions/efforts at the local level.
- State-wide trainings to school personnel on topics such as de-escalation, early warning signs of mental illness, mindfulness/regulation in the classroom, trauma informed practices, and restorative practices.
- Partner on trainings of Evidence-based mental health therapy techniques for student support personnel
- Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (Project AWARE) Grant (2020-2026).
- CMS School-Based Behavioral Health Services Enhancement Grant (2024-2027).
- Interagency agreement to develop a state-wide crisis response team and maintain 9 regional crisis response teams, including training that focuses on strengthening school safety and responses.

Who do School Linked Behavioral Health Grants Serve?

- Grants to Community Providers (in partnership with local schools) to support uninsured and underinsured students, their families, and school staff.
- Services are provided in:
 - Independent School Districts, Charter School Districts, Specialized Districts
 - Intermediate School Districts:
 - Intermediate schools provide highly specialized educational programs to students and families;
 - Helping students to return to their home school district, reversing the disproportionate impact on students of color, and providing support and training for school staff and parents
 - Supporting youth transitioning from placements including hospitals

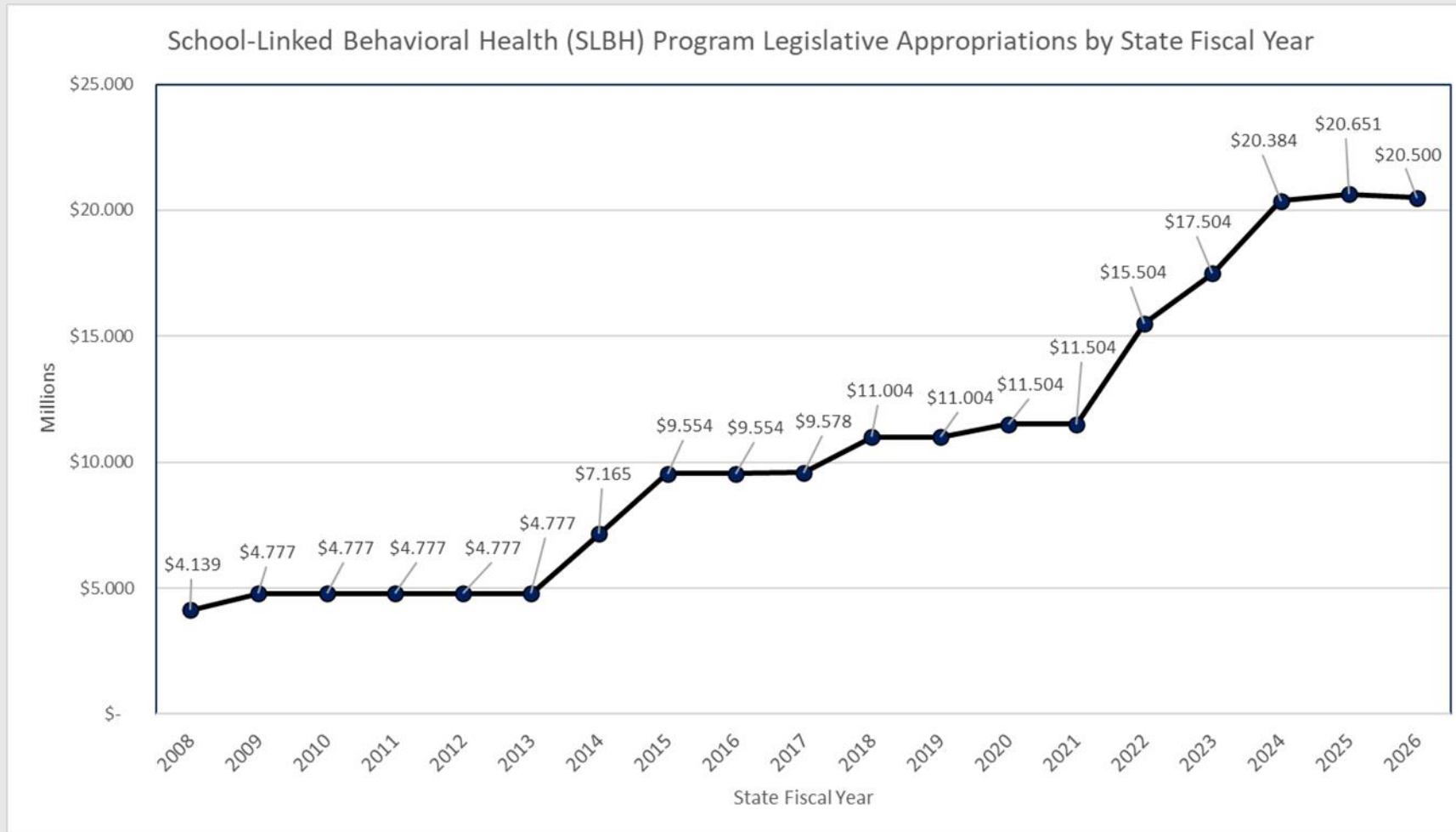
School Districts Served by SLBH Grants



[Map of school and educational program locations](#)
currently being served by SLBH grantees

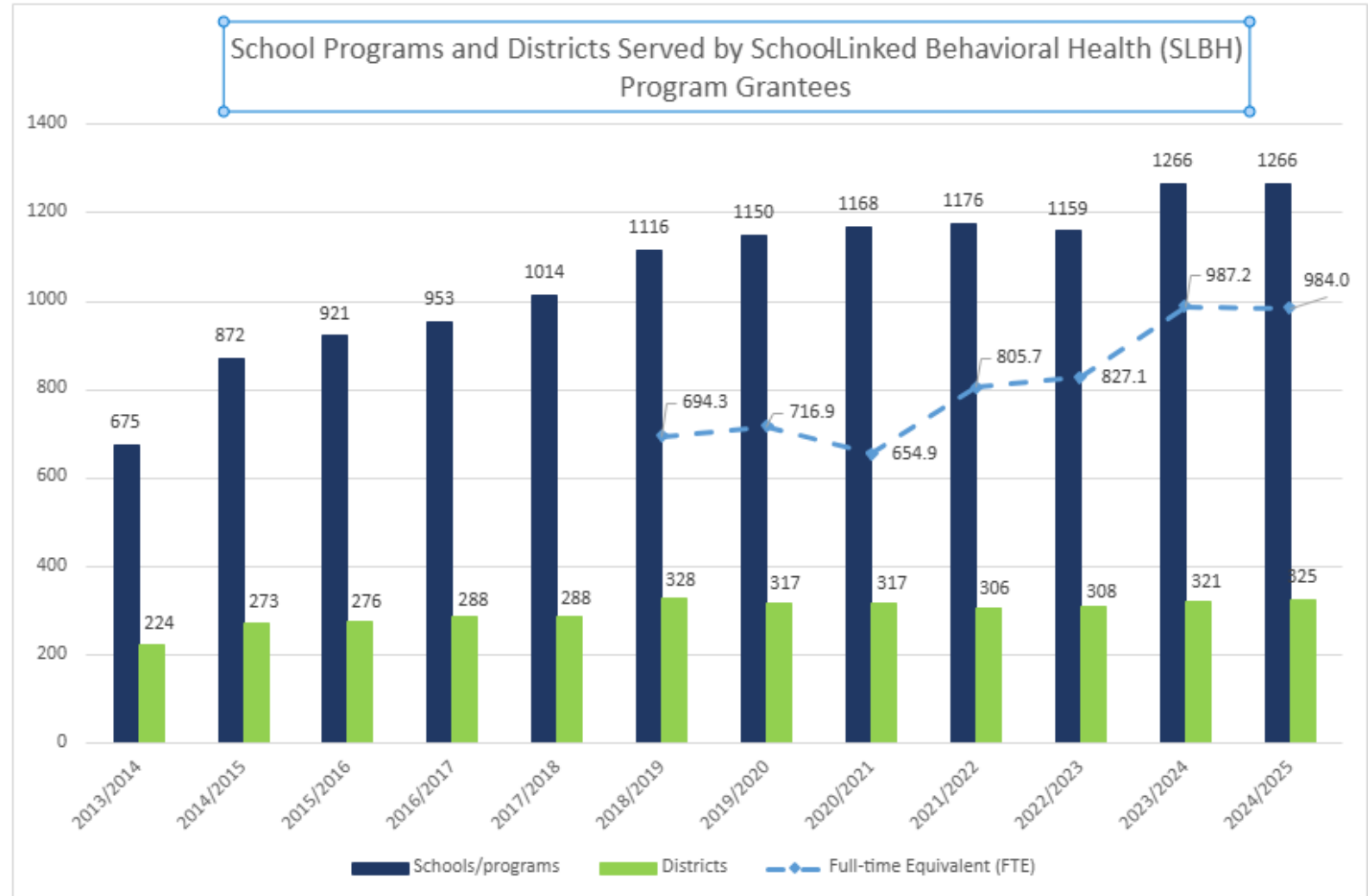
District Type	Districts Served Statewide	Districts Served Metro (7 county)	Districts Served Greater MN	Total Districts Statewide	Percent of Statewide Total
Independent Districts	280	44	236	325	86%
Special Districts	2	2	N/A	2	100%
Intermediate Districts	4	4	N/A	4	100%
Charter School Districts	28	6	22	175	16%
State Operated Schools	1	0	1	2	50%
Other District Types	13	0	13		
Total	328	56	272		

School-Linked Behavioral Health Grants: Legislative Appropriations

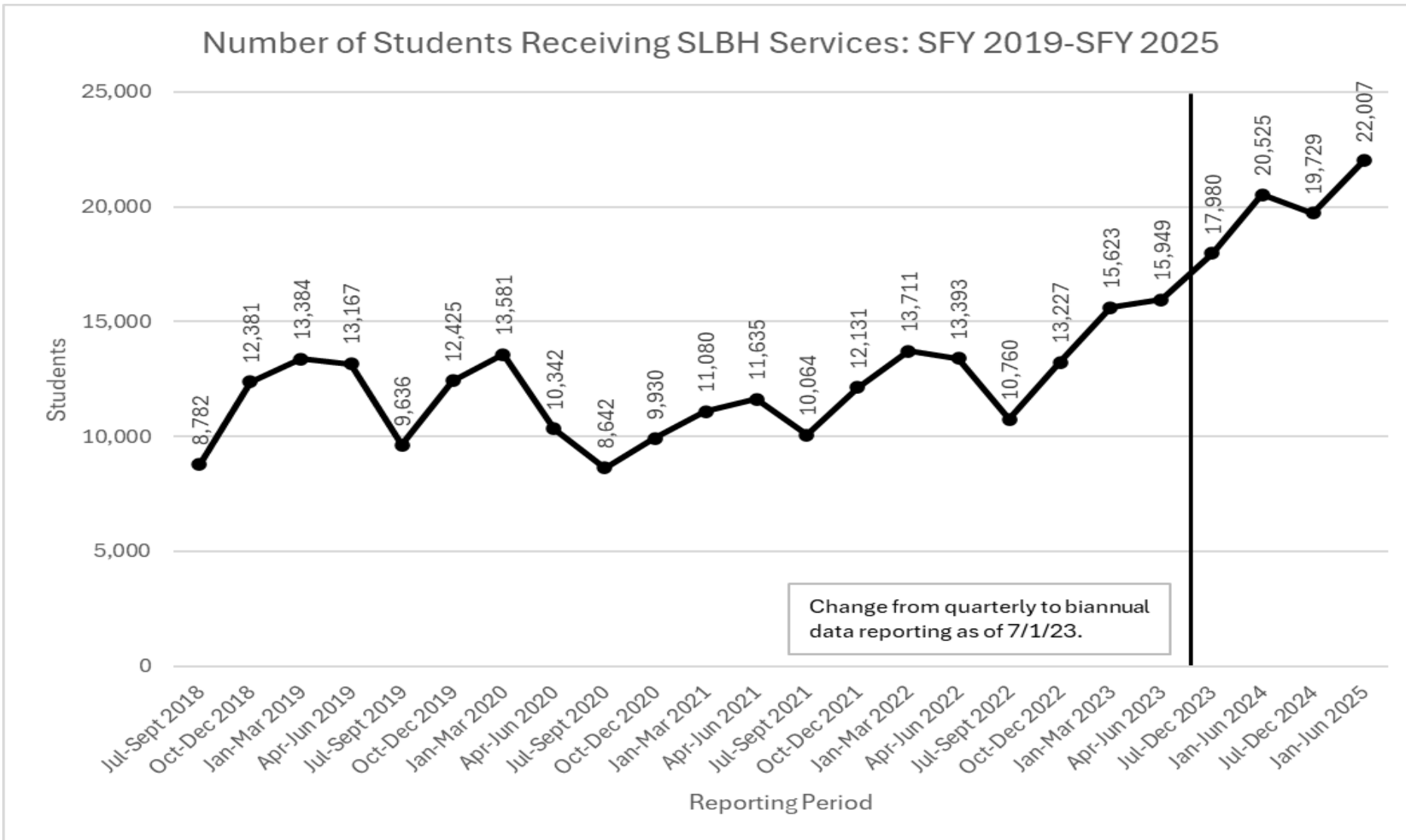


Schools/Districts: Demand and Utilization Continue to Increase

Continued state investment in the SLBH grant program and sustained collaboration between school districts and grantees has led to consistent growth in 1) the number of districts and schools/programs served by grantees, and 2) the number of behavioral health clinicians providing services in schools.



Students: Demand and Utilization Continue to Increase

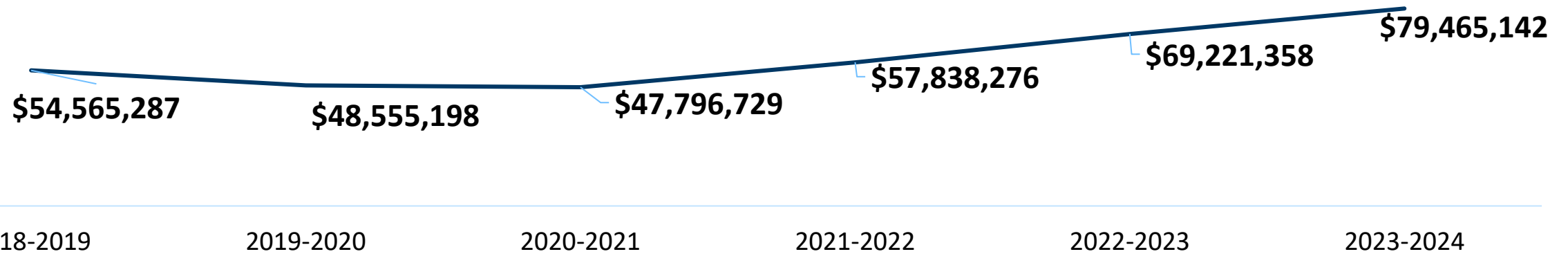


Activities Outside the Scope of the Grant

- Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) provides payments for School-Based Community Services, including individual and group services provided to students not on an IEP.
- Services schools provide through Special Education receive the Federal Medicaid share through a cost-based rate.
- Through the Behavioral Health Administration's efforts—including needs assessments, training, and Medicaid expansion work—more schools are now able to bill Medicaid for eligible mental health services and support workforce needs.

Medicaid-Funded School Behavioral Health Supports

Minnesota School Medicaid Revenue by Year



- Minnesota schools received **over \$79 million** in FY 2023–24 through Federal Medicaid (Third-Party Reimbursement)
- These supports — especially behavioral health and PCA/paraprofessional supports — are key to the **reduction in seclusion and restraint** across Minnesota schools.
- Medicaid investment = more support for students, fewer crises for schools.

Advancing Safe and Supportive School Practices

- **Seclusion is not best practice:** US Government Accountability Office (2019) research shows seclusion is harmful and often traumatic for students and families, as reflected in both data and lived experiences.
- **Adults drive change:** Training and supporting school staff in effective approaches helps students manage dysregulation safely.
- **Data** indicates when school mental health systems are aligned, student outcomes improve.
- Efforts like **Project AWARE** and insights from the **MDE Legislative Report** highlight how schools, behavioral health providers, and community systems can work cohesively to reduce behavioral incidences in schools.
- **Prevention** via training & early intervention = better outcomes, lower long-term costs

Conclusion

When schools integrate behavioral health staff with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and other support systems, data show fewer crises, reduced use of restraint and seclusion, and improved student well-being and learning outcomes.



Thank You!

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