



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Committee on Children  
and Appropriations Committee  
Joint Meeting on PA 13-178**

Charlene Russell-Tucker  
Chief Operating Officer

October 1, 2014

## **PA 13-178 states:**

*“Emergency mobile psychiatric service providers shall collaborate with community-based mental health care agencies, school-based health centers and the contracting authority for each local or regional board of education throughout the state, utilizing a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, memoranda of understanding, policy and protocols regarding referrals and outreach and liaison between the respective entities.*

*These methods shall be designed to (1) improve coordination and communication in order to enable such entities to promptly identify and refer children with mental, emotional or behavioral health issues to the appropriate treatment program, and (2) plan for any appropriate follow-up with the child and family.”*



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# **Educating the Whole Child: Partnering for Success**

Charlene Russell-Tucker  
Chief Operating Officer

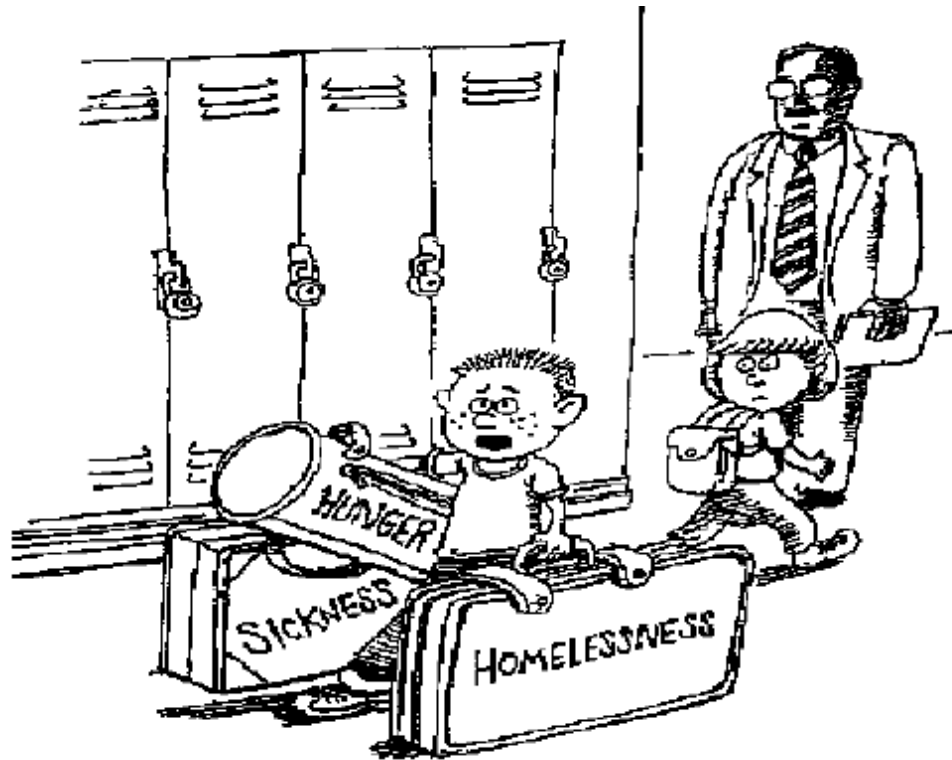
August 19, 2014

# Healthy Students Make Better Learners

*“We recognize that children who come to school hungry, are absent due to asthma, suffer from other chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, are depressed or distracted by family problems, or stay away from school because of fear of violence cannot benefit fully from the sound educational programs we are putting into place to ensure that no child in our schools is left behind. Policies and practices that address the health and developmental needs of young people must be included in any comprehensive strategy for improving academic performance.”*

*-CCSSO 2004 Policy Statement on School Health-*

# Schools can't do this alone...



***"Could someone help me with these?  
I'm late for math class."***

*Scott Spencer*

# Partnerships that Work

- Where is the strategic opportunity to engage partners? What does the data show?
- What service needs are your families/students facing?
  - Housing/Homelessness
  - Health Care (physical and mental health)
  - Employment
  - Child Care
  - Access to Affordable and Healthy Food
  - Mentoring



# Identify Partners...

- Are you working with your partners to review data and to align strategies to improve student outcomes?
- Do you have a community organization as case manager?
- Are you connected with foster care/child welfare?
- Which agencies in your community or region can support your families needs?
  - United Ways
  - RESCs
  - Youth Service Bureaus
  - Family Resource Centers
  - School Based Health Centers and Local Health Departments
  - Child Guidance Clinics



# Feedback from the Districts...

The number one need for support in schools identified by districts is in the area of Mental Health Services.

- The Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS) provides same-day response to urgent student needs.
- State law requires that school districts have a signed MOU with EMPS to ensure access to these services.
- Contact your local Mental Health Community Collaborative to partner.

<http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2558&q=314352>





# Next Steps...

(1) Links on the Department Web site

Superintendents' Back to School Meeting:  
Slide deck and documents posted to our website..  
[http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&  
Q=335472](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=335472)

(2) Collaborate with DCF to reach out to those districts without an executed MOA