



October 5, 2018

Good Afternoon –

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), is committed to ensuring all our state's children and families have access to the array of behavioral health resources currently available. Nebraska's schools and Educational Service Units (ESUs) are essential in this collaborative effort. Educators and other school staff are often the first to identify a student's needs and as such, are in a unique position to help by connecting the child and their family to appropriate school- and community-based behavioral health services and supports.

As part of our continuing commitment to better support our education, behavioral health and community partners, DBH has developed the attached document, ***Behavioral Health Resources for Schools***. We hope that you and your staff find this resource guide to be both informative and useful.

The ***Behavioral Health Resources for Schools*** document will be updated periodically. We expect its content to grow as Nebraska's behavioral health system evolves over time. Your feedback is welcomed as we continue to enhance the guide to best meet you and your students' needs. Questions, concerns and other feedback may be sent to: dhhs.soc@nebraska.gov

In addition to the attached resource guide, DBH and NDE have received requests for information on best and promising practices related to adolescent behavioral health. As part of this effort, DBH is currently developing a summary of screening tools available to assist schools in identifying students with behavioral health conditions. Distribution of this additional resource is planned for later this year. We look forward to continuing to work with you in promoting the healthy development, wellness and future success of all our children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sheri Dawson in blue ink.

Sheri Dawson, RN, BS, CLSSYB
DHHS Director of Behavioral Health

Handwritten signature of Matthew L. Blomstedt in blue ink.

Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

Attachment