

What Is The Statewide BHSSA Evaluation?

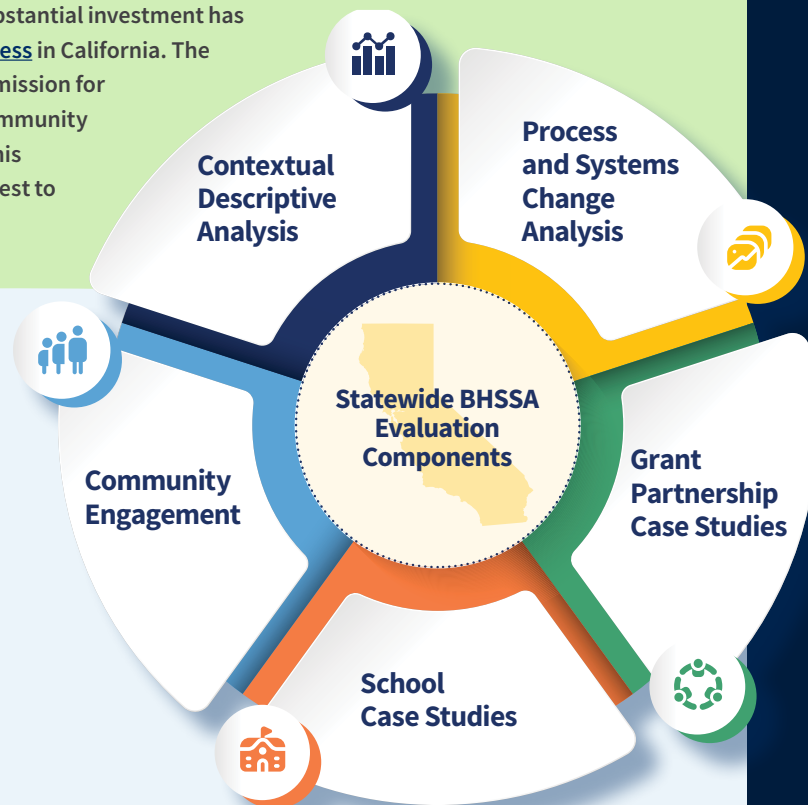
The [Behavioral Health Student Services Act \(BHSSA\)](#) aims to improve the behavioral health and wellbeing of California's young people by providing funding and support to county behavioral health department and local education agency partnerships. This investment is a component of California's broader investment in building effective and sustainable school behavioral health systems. Fifty-seven grantee partnerships across the state are implementing BHSSA-funded activities and services within a continuum of behavioral health initiatives that emphasize prevention and early intervention.

A statewide evaluation is underway to learn about how this substantial investment has strengthened systems that sustain [Schools as Centers of Wellness](#) in California. The evaluation is being led by WestEd in partnership with the Commission for Behavioral Health. It was codigned with BHSSA grantees, community partners, and youths. From design through implementation, this participatory evaluation centers the perspectives of those closest to California's school behavioral health systems.

What information is being collected?

The evaluation will take place from July 2025 through June 2027 and consists of five primary components:

- **Community Engagement:** Ongoing engagement with a broad group of partners to foster youth empowerment, youth-facilitated data collection, and ongoing partner collaboration for collective data insights and learning.
- **Contextual Descriptive Analysis:** Information about current behavioral health services and needs in the state.
- **Process and Systems Change Analysis:** Results from a survey focused on BHSSA partnerships and school behavioral health systems and grant monitoring data shared by the Commission.
- **Grant Partnership Case Studies:** Stories from county behavioral health departments and local education agency partners about how BHSSA funds were used to build partnerships and strengthen school behavioral health systems.
- **School Case Studies:** Stories from behavioral health professionals, educators, families, and youths about the implementation and impact of BHSSA-funded activities and services on school behavioral health systems and student wellbeing.



When will the results of the BHSSA Evaluation be available?

The full results and final reports from the evaluation are expected to be available in June 2027. However, interim reports and findings will be shared beginning in early 2026.

How will the results of the BHSSA Evaluation be used?

The statewide BHSSA Evaluation will inform funding decisions, shine a spotlight on successes, and identify areas for growth—all to build stronger school behavioral health systems across the state of California.