



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

New Grants Support School-Based Mental Health Across Nebraska



Team members at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) continue to support efforts to strengthen school-based mental health across Nebraska by serving as evaluators for two new federal grants. These four-year grants were awarded and accepted by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) from the U.S. Department of Education to address the shortage of school psychologists in high-need school districts.

The two projects aim to train 10 current educators or human service providers to be new school psychologists, offer professional development opportunities to 500 educators, fund 660 school psychologist service hours in high-need schools, credential 28 school psychologists, and offer 31 micro-credentials for school psychologists.

Course Highlight

Annual Building Suicide-Safe School Community Course Open for Nebraska Educators

Building a Suicide-Safe School Community.

an annually released course, aims to give school personnel and educators the knowledge and skills they can use for suicide prevention and postvention through videos, quizzes, handouts, and scenarios. For example, it discusses how to integrate students who attempt suicide back to school and how to appropriately interact with students after the death of a student by suicide. This course satisfies the annual suicide prevention training requirement for Nebraska educators and usually sees its first wave of participants across Nebraska in early August, with many schools preparing for the school year. To date, 42,147 participants have taken this course.

[Take the Course](#)

Events

Lunch & Learn Series

These sessions will inform schools how to integrate system changes to address issues discovered through safety exercises and drills.

Each session is self-contained; there are no prerequisites:

12:00 to 12:30 p.m. (CT); 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. (MT)

- **Tuesday, August 18, 2026:**
Premiere of two brief videos about drills and teens with psychological challenges with Denise Bulling
- **Wednesday, August 26, 2026:** Reunification at a Glance with Kurt Mantonya
- **Monday, August 31, 2026:** When it is Beyond Local Control: How, When, and Where Schools Can Access External Assistance with Psychological First Aid for Schools (PFA-S) with Jay Martin and Denise Bulling

[Register for Lunch & Learn Sessions](#)



Psychological First Aid for Schools (PFA-S)

with Dr. Melissa Brymer

ESU 2

2320 N. Colorado Ave, Fremont, NE

August 27, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (CT)

This free Psychological First Aid for Schools (PFA-S) training is an evidence-informed intervention model to assist students, families, school personnel, and school partners in the immediate aftermath of an emergency. PFA-S is designed to reduce the initial distress caused by emergencies, and to foster short- and long-term adaptive functioning and coping.

Participants may be reimbursed for travel. [Request Travel Reimbursement](#).

[Register for PFA-S training](#)

Building Bridges for Student Mental Health

Virtual Training via Zoom

Sept. 3, 2026, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (CT)

Join this one-hour webinar to learn more about the pilot project conducted by Nebraska Partnership for Mental Healthcare Access in Pediatrics (NEP-MAP) using Community Health Workers (CHW) to support student mental health needs. The pilot team will discuss how local health departments and schools can collaborate to improve access to mental health services and strengthen school-community partnerships through the CHW workforce.

[Register for Building Bridges](#)

Center News

Welcome Noora Mohamed

This summer, we welcomed **Noora Mohamed** as an undergraduate copy editor! Noora is pursuing degrees in Journalism and Sports Media and Communications with minors in Merchandising Fashion Design and Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She serves as secretary of the African Student Association and works at the Daily Nebraskan. After she graduates, Noora plans to go to law school in California.



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