

Pocket Guide: After-School Mental Health Consultation to Support Staff In Parent Engagement around Social and Emotional Learning



Created by:



About the Partnerships that Form After-School Mental Health Consultation:



Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN) - The Illinois AfterSchool network provides support to the afterschool and youth development field through professional development, leadership, and networking opportunities.



Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP) - The Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership is committed to improving the scope, quality, and access of mental health programs, services, and supports for children, adolescents, and their families in Illinois.



Bright Promises Foundation – The Bright Promises Foundation is one of the oldest 501c3 public charities in Illinois solely dedicated to funding innovative programs that address emerging issues for at-risk children.

The Collaboration in Action

The Illinois AfterSchool Network and the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership engaged in a two-year grant to support seven after-school programs in Chicago. Each program received a mental health consultant to work directly with the program staff on supporting family engagement and the connection to social and emotional learning.



It is essential that parents and program staff collaborate and connect to support the social and emotional development of their children, which leads to academic success and the development of career and life skills. This manual offers ideas, resources, and activities to support that process. What will you find in this manual? The manual is divided into sections, which will give easy access to users. First and foremost, a fundamental view of the Afterschool Mental Health Consultation Framework explaining the objectives of this partnership: what mental health consultation looks like, expected services from consultants, and expected participation from the after-school programs. Other information in this resource manual includes the benefits and challenges in parent engagement, valuable research information on parent engagement, as well as observations and concerns from staff.