



DENVER
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Whole Child

Mill Levy Funding Overview & Quick Reference Guide

Social Emotional Learning Overview

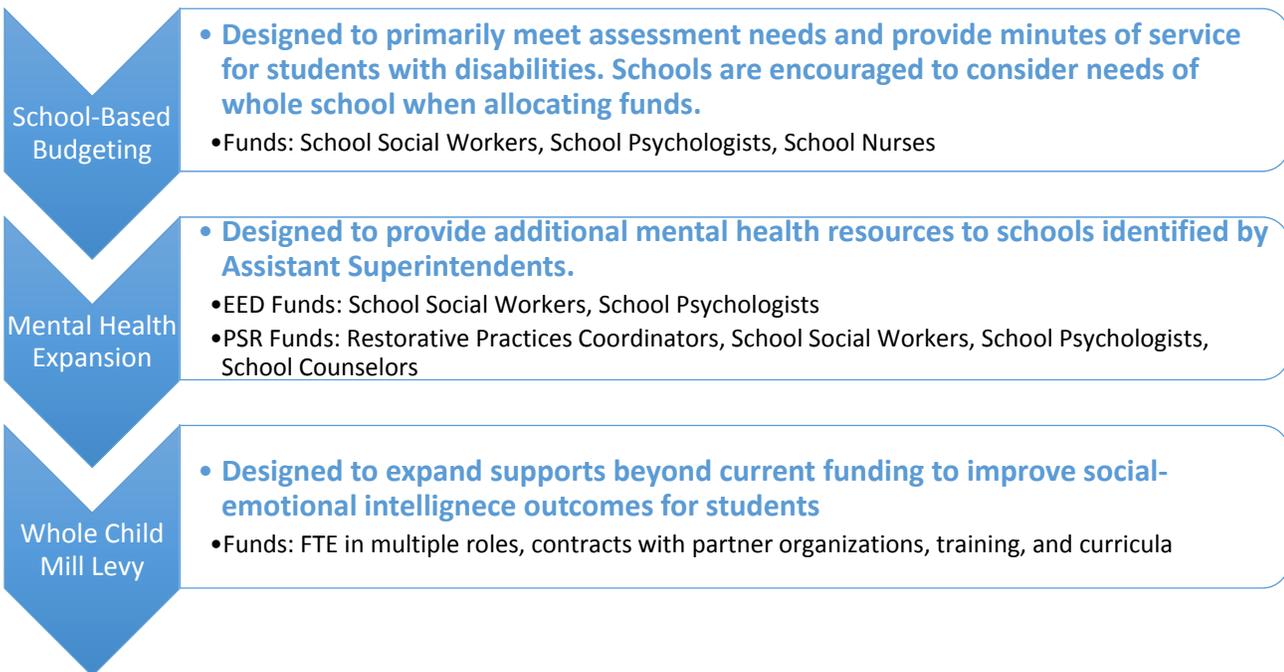
Whole Child Mill Levy funds are to be used to improve student outcomes within the Socially & Emotionally Intelligent component of our Whole Child Definition.

In Denver Public Schools, “Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.” (CASEL 2011)

Further, social-emotional learning is of critical importance in achieving our value of equity and closing the opportunity gap by ensuring all our students have the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary to succeed now and in the future.

Funding Social Emotional Learning Supports to DPS Students

The Whole Child Mill Levy Funds are part of a larger system to provide Social Emotional Learning Supports to students.



Allowable Use of Whole Child Mill Levy Funding

- School leaders have flexibility to determine how to most effectively target these dollars toward supporting their students' social-emotional intelligence needs beyond minimum requirements identified through school-based budgets.
- School leaders must not use Mill Levy funding to supplant existing minimum support requirements.
- School leaders should use funding to expand mental health services, evidence-based social-emotional learning curriculum and instruction, programs focused on building a school climate that fosters positive social-emotional outcomes, or a combination of these varying types of support.
- Funding can be spent on staff positions, contracts with partner organizations, training or curricula.
- Mill Levy Whole Child Resources are **not convertible** to other uses.

Quick Tips for Allocating Whole Child Mill Levy Funding

The Mill Levy Menu of Options for Fund Use provides detailed information on allowable use of funding and strategies for maximizing funding to meet student needs. When using the menu or selecting other options, these tips can support your decision making:

- Consult available data to assess student needs.
- Consider the strategies that are best positioned to meet student needs related to
 - mental health services,
 - evidence-based social-emotional learning curriculum and instruction,
 - programs to build a school climate that fosters positive social-emotional outcomes and/or
 - a combination of these types of supports.
- Consider both short-term and long-term needs. Think about the sustainability of the investment and how to get the most out of your allocation.
- Consider universal, targeted, and intensive supports for students.
- Consider existing strategies and/or practices that have proven effective for some and can be scaled to maximize impact.
- Consider where you have gaps in supports for students, including students with severe behavior challenges.
- Consider how adjusting the current daily and yearly schedule to allow for integration of social emotional learning could impact student achievement.
- Consider how mill levy dollars can help close the opportunity gap by providing needed supports to the school's unique sub-populations.
- Consider whether the needs are best met by a school employee or partner organization.
- Consider how your team might benefit from coming together for deep planning to create school specific visions and implementation plans.
- Focus planning on high-leverage strategies to expend the majority of funding (e.g. building staff capacity via FTE, entering into contracted partnership with community based organizations, etc.) at this stage in budget development.
- Dollars for smaller scale training or curriculum can be budgeted now with determination on the best course of action and selection of specific vendor/curriculum completed during your spring planning efforts.

Contacts for Additional Support

Your OSEL Partner, School Social Worker, or School Psychologist, or School Nurse

or

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