Universal Benefits of School Programs that Bolster the Behavioral Health and Educational Success of Our Youth

The National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives (NPSC), the UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, and the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center (PRC) at Penn State University are hosting a congressional briefing with international experts to discuss the urgent need to invest in school programs that promote healthy social, behavioral, and emotional development. People competent in these domains tend to do better in every aspect of life—from health to wealth. School curricula designed to instill these competencies in children have been demonstrated to sustainably improve their abilities to achieve developmental and academic milestones, cope with stress, maintain quality relationships, and prevent mental and behavioral health problems, including substance misuse, violence, and suicide. Federal and state educational policies that support the provision of these programs will ensure our children are instilled with the skills needed for them to succeed throughout life.

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