



# MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS LEARNING SERIES

## Trauma Strand

*An Introduction to Virginia HEALS - Better Serving Students & Families Who Have Experienced Trauma*

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### Webinar Summary:

Service providers and the children, youth, and families whom they serve have long faced system barriers which often present more challenges than solutions. In today's climate, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated many of these issues, forcing child and youth-serving providers to find unique ways to meet the needs of individuals and communities. For many reasons, the relevance and timing of the arrival of the Virginia HEALS model of service delivery could not have been more perfect. Developed as part of the Linking Systems of Care (LSC) for Children and Youth, a demonstration initiative supported by the United States Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), this model aims to assist service providers in better linking systems of care across systems and providing support and care to children, youth, and families impacted by trauma and/or victimization. Many providers daily wonder, "What has happened to this child or individual? How can I help or refer them to the most suitable services that will meet their most pressing needs? How do I engage their family in the process and healing? How do I provide these services in a trauma-informed manner?" As a result, a toolkit of resources including a trauma screening tool, a referral and response protocol, and several trainings was designed to support community and state-level implementation of the Virginia HEALS Model for the provision of services and referrals to children, youth, and families.

### The Virginia HEALS Toolkit includes:

- Trauma-Informed Agency Self-Assessment
- Family Engagement Guide
- Community Resource Mapping Facilitation Guide
- Screening for Experiences and Strengths (SEAS)
- Referral and Response Protocol

### Resources:

- [Virginia HEALS - Virginia HEALS](#)

### Discussion Guide:

#### Reflective/Extension questions:

1. Do I work in a trauma-informed or trauma-responsive environment? If not, how do we change that?
2. How and why is screening or assessing for trauma important in the education setting?
3. What do you say/how do you respond when someone is talking to you about hard things that they have been through?
4. What is my role and how can I help or refer a child/youth who has experienced trauma to the most suitable services that will meet their most pressing needs?



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5. What is the biggest challenge that we have in education when trying to collaborate in community to provide trauma-informed services to children and youth?
6. How successful is my school/school community/school division doing at engaging families?