



Who is HEY!?

[Hopeful Empowered Youth \(HEY!\) Greater Cincinnati](#) is a diverse coalition of community groups, healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, families, and most importantly, young people themselves, working collaboratively to create a community that supports the well-being of all youth.

What is the School of Wellness model?

- The School of Wellness model is part of the *HEY! Schools Working Group's* action to increase youth wellness through education and engagement in mentally healthy activities throughout the school environment.
- Chosen pilot schools will complete a building self-assessment that helps school leaders evaluate current wellness initiatives, practices, culture, and policies within their school related to the SAMHSA 8 dimensions of wellness that are codependent and connected to students' health & quality of life: emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual.
- By focusing on these pillars, the School of Wellness Framework can create a balanced and comprehensive approach to promoting overall well-being. From prevention to intervention and treatment, the goal is to see schools become spaces of wellness for our school communities which include youth, staff, and families.
- Up to \$20,000 each year for up to three years will be made available to chosen pilot schools to support initiatives aligned with the assessment and in enhancing youth wellness in the school building with ongoing support of HEY! Staff & Schools Co-Chairs.

School Building Eligibility:

- Middle or high school buildings within the 12 counties of HEY!*
- Completed application form by school building leadership and introductory 30 minute call before the end of March.
- Acknowledgement of superintendent awareness of application submission.
- Willingness to engage in quarterly learning with other chosen school leaders, present learnings to the HEY! Schools Working Group, and share agreed-upon data with HEY! for learning, future scaling, and sustainability purposes.

*12 counties in the Greater Cincinnati MSA between Ohio and Kentucky. The counties in Kentucky include Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton. The counties in Ohio include Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren.

Selection Criteria:

- Openness to:
 - Self-auditing a school building's policies, practices and initiatives connected with youth wellness.
 - Sharing implementation learnings with other selected pilot schools.
 - Engaging youth voice & leadership in wellness initiatives in the school building.
- School leadership vision, collaborative mindset, empathy, adaptability/flexibility, communication skills, resourcefulness, cultural competence, & advocacy.
- A representative cohort of schools based on readiness, commitment, and the capacity to successfully implement and sustain wellness initiatives.

Selection Process:

School applications will be ranked by a neutral body of community partners and leaders in March; school names will be removed from the application form and reviewers will use a rubric to score applications. The Review Committee will choose a fairly distributed mix of schools in April across:

- Ohio and Kentucky
- Schools that are free/reduced lunch and schools that are not.
- Urban, suburban, rural, public and private
- Large and small schools

Thank you to our active HEY! Schools Working Group members who have built this initiative alongside youth and in partnership with schools to increase wellness in schools.

Click Here

**to express interest in becoming a School
of Wellness before March 7**

