

Board Report
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Federal Programs Director
September 9, 2026

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Grant

Trauma-Informed Services in Schools Awarded

Project CONNECT: Building Trauma-Informed Schools, Families, and Community is a four-year initiative. The project is designed to create a districtwide, coordinated trauma-informed mental health system that connects schools, families, behavioral health providers, and community agencies. Rather than creating a separate program, Project CONNECT builds on Homedale's existing PBIS/MTSS, Safe Schools, community school, suicide-prevention, and student-support infrastructure.

On September 1, 2026 we received notification that our grant was awarded. We will receive 2.1 million dollars over the next 4 years to support our proposed scope of work. The project has five major goals:

1. Build a coordinated trauma-informed school/community mental health system, including a formal partnership with Insight Counseling and a Trauma-Informed Community Coalition.
2. Increase early identification and access to care through mental-health screening, triage, referral, warm handoffs, follow-up, crisis protocols, and coordination with 988.
3. Strengthen trauma-informed practices across all three MTSS tiers, including PBIS/MTSS and evidence-based trauma interventions.
4. Improve school climate and student well-being, focusing on safety, trusted relationships, bullying, discipline, referral linkage, unmet mental-health needs, and family awareness.
5. Use data for continuous improvement and sustainability, including quarterly SAMHSA reporting and ongoing evaluation.

A major component is a partnership with Insight Counseling, which will serve as the credentialed mental-health treatment provider. Services may include individual and group counseling, behavioral-health consultation, case management, care coordination, referral linkage, warm handoffs, prevention, early intervention, and support for uninsured and underinsured students and families.