

## STATE EXTENDS CALHOPE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP

*Back-to-school outreach ramps up as kids return*

**SACRAMENTO** – The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has extended the [CalHOPE Schools Initiative](#) through June 30, 2024. The initiative provides free resources for school personnel, youth, and parents surrounding three powerful films that address student social-emotional and mental health needs: *A Trusted Space: Redirecting Grief to Growth*, *Angst: Building Resilience*, and *Stories of Hope Shorts*.

“DHCS is pleased to continue our support of parents and schools through these CalHOPE resources that enhance the positive school environment for all,” said **DHCS Director Michelle Baass**. “These resources help reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues and receiving mental health support.”

**WHY THIS MATTERS:** The CalHOPE Schools Initiative provides curriculum, teacher guides, classroom materials, a resource page, forums, mini professional development modules, and more at no cost to schools and families across California to promote mental health and wellness and reduce the impact of stress and other challenges. More than 55,000 students, educators, and parents have visited the CalHOPE Schools website since its launch in August 2022, and all 58 county offices of education participate in regular statewide collaborative learning sessions to advance social and emotional learning practices in schools throughout California.

**NEW CONTENT:** Beginning this month, *A Trusted Space: Meeting the Moment* will launch its first in a series of short docu-training films that will serve both school staff and secondary school students in understanding the social, emotional, and mental health issues that students face. Steeped in science and led by student, educator, and expert voices, these short films will offer tips, tools, and hope, leading to a healthier, more rewarding school experience for all in California’s education system.

The beginning of the 2023-2024 school year will also feature seven new *Stories of Hope Shorts*. These inspirational stories feature youth sharing real stories of finding their pathway to hope and resilience despite their personal struggles. All stories are 30 minutes or less and include a youth guided discussion to help initiate conversations.

“As we begin another school year, we are fortunate in California to have continued support for quality, positive, and evidence-based resources to support our school personnel, youth, and parents. We are grateful to be able to continue this work and are dedicated to instilling resilience and hope in students,” said **Autumn Boylan, Deputy Director of DHCS’ Office of Strategic Partnerships.**

**ADDITIONAL OUTREACH:** In addition to renewing the CalHOPE Schools Initiative, DHCS signed data use agreements with 220 Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that will assist with Medi-Cal outreach and application activities, as well as eligibility redeterminations, for school children as students return to school. Also, to promote collaboration with community groups in this effort, DHCS created the Keep Your Community Covered [resource hub](#) with outreach materials.

Further, DHCS is seeking the assistance of LEAs to distribute to students the Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens [toolkit](#). This toolkit is intended to educate and inform families and providers in Medi-Cal about the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment requirement (now called Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens in California). Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens provides free services to keep children healthy from birth to age 21. These services include check-ups, shots, and health screenings, as well as treatments for physical, mental, and dental health problems.

**LEARN MORE:** CalHOPE builds community resiliency and helps people recover from public health emergencies and disasters through free outreach, crisis counseling, and mental health support. Registration and resources are available at [calhopeschools.org](http://calhopeschools.org). Resources are also available in Spanish at [calhopeschools.org/es](http://calhopeschools.org/es). For more information about CalHOPE and a full array of resources, visit [www.CalHOPE.org](http://www.CalHOPE.org).

**BIGGER PICTURE:** Today's announcements advance the Administration’s goals to support California's children and youth, including Governor Newsom's [Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#) and First Partner Siebel Newsom’s [California for All Kids](#). The \$4.6 billion investment through the Master Plan is a central piece of the Governor’s transformation and modernization of California’s mental health system, which aims to make support and care more accessible and affordable for all.

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