

Miss Kendra Program Connecticut Expansion Initiative

Miss Kendra Programs is a trauma-informed, social and emotional learning (SEL) program that equips schools to proactively address the social and emotional needs of their students as they return to school while continuing to grapple with the ongoing threat of COVID-19, the lasting impacts of extended school closures and stay-at-home orders, and the upending of many other aspects of their lives.

Miss Kendra Programs offer an **established, cost-effective, and sustainable** intervention to help meet the emotional needs of children as they return to school by giving them a safe space to share their stressors and worries and by equipping schools to create whole-school environments that welcome open conversation about stressful experiences.



In more than 40 schools in 10 states, the Miss Kendra Program has consistently reduced disruptive behaviors, increased teacher efficacy, and improved school climate, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, in rural and urban communities. Best of all, because the program trains teachers and school support staff to deliver the program, the Miss Kendra Program produces **lasting improvements** in a school's ability to support children's social and emotional health at a cost that schools can sustain.

The Miss Kendra Program is now **expanding in elementary schools across Connecticut** to respond to the widespread need for effective SEL programs that reach every student in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. SEL programs that rely on remedial approaches involving intensive interventions with the most distressed and symptomatic students can cost upwards of \$5,000 per student per year. The Miss Kendra Program offers an **affordable, sustainable alternative**, with an annual, per-student cost of roughly \$50 during the first year of the program and approximately \$10 in Year 2 and beyond.

The CSDE plan to re-open schools encourages districts to allocate a portion of their share of Connecticut's \$111 million in federal coronavirus relief aid to address "a heightened student, staff, and school community need for SEL." Districts can invest a fraction of this funding to bring the Miss Kendra Program to their schools this year, and can typically sustain the program with district and/or community resources.

*"The Miss Kendra Program provided a way for our students to give voice to their worries, and know our school was a safe place in which they could receive support."
- Principal, Quinnipiac School,
New Haven*

To learn more about the Miss Kendra Program Connecticut Expansion initiative and becoming a Miss Kendra school, visit misskendraprograms.org

The Miss Kendra program is looking for elementary schools that have experience delivering trauma-informed care, that can make a whole-school commitment to the program's guiding principles of trauma-sensitivity, non-punitive discipline, and a whole-child approach, and that are prepared to sustain the program.

If your school is ready to move beyond being trauma-informed and ready to address trauma proactively, become a Miss Kendra school today!

