

Worcester HEARS is changing school environments
to help children thrive
in a complex and ever changing world.

The **Worcester HEARS** (Healthy Environments And Resilience in Schools) initiative brings together advances in brain science, child development, and best practices to address childhood adversity in our complex society to create school environments that support children's health, social and emotional development, and academic success. The Worcester Public Schools are implementing a model approach in Rice Square, Grafton Street, Roosevelt, and City View Elementary Schools, and Worcester East Middle School. The Worcester Education Collaborative is the lead community partner and others include Clark University, Family Health Center of Worcester, Community Healthlink, Worcester Community Connections, You, Inc., Latino Education Institute, and City of Worcester's Recreation Department. Researchers from Brandeis University are conducting the evaluation. As the lead funder, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts has provided a total of \$958,567 over three years. Other funders include: the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation; Hoche-Scofield Foundation, Bank of America, N.A, Co-Trustee; the City of Worcester; and MassDevelopment. Please go to www.worcesterschools.org/Worcester-hears or contact Gabe Santner, Project Coordinator, SantnerG@worc.k12.ma.us for more information.

Worcester HEARS:

Provides graduate courses through Lesley University for a group of teachers to become school leaders

Provides all Worcester HEARS teachers with training in mindfulness education through the MindUP program, funded through the Daniels Foundation

Identifies positive changes to each school environment by using the flexible framework, an organizational tool

Works closely with Clark University and Worcester behavioral health providers to create a Community of Practice and collaborate more effectively

Engages parents and families, and provides them with training to become more involved and empowered in their schools

Provides a Licensed Social Worker and a Licensed Mental Health Clinician to support all five of the HEARS Schools

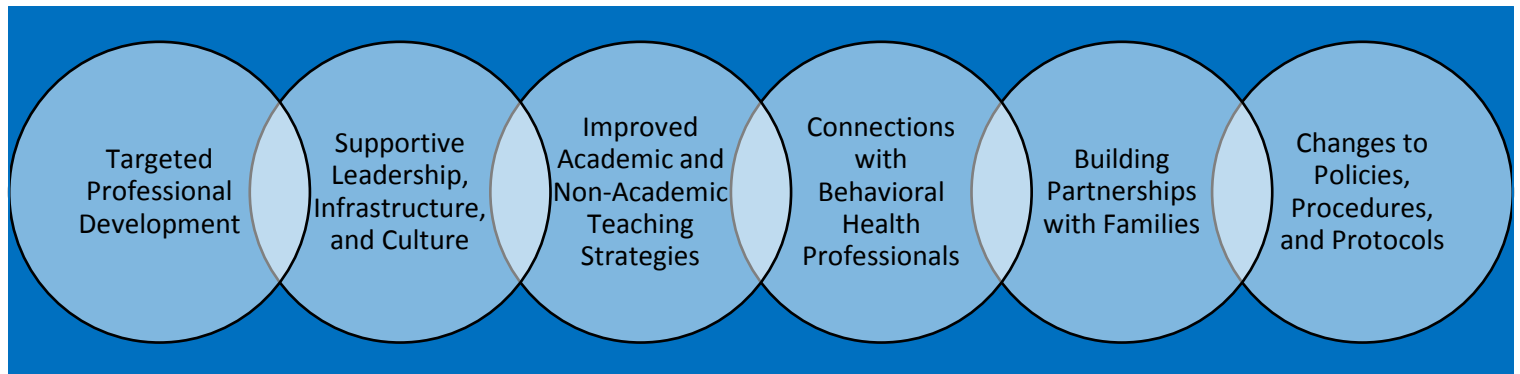
Will reopen the School Based Health Center at Worcester East Middle to provide medical and behavioral health services for all students

Will work closely with The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts to advocate for local, state, and federal policy changes

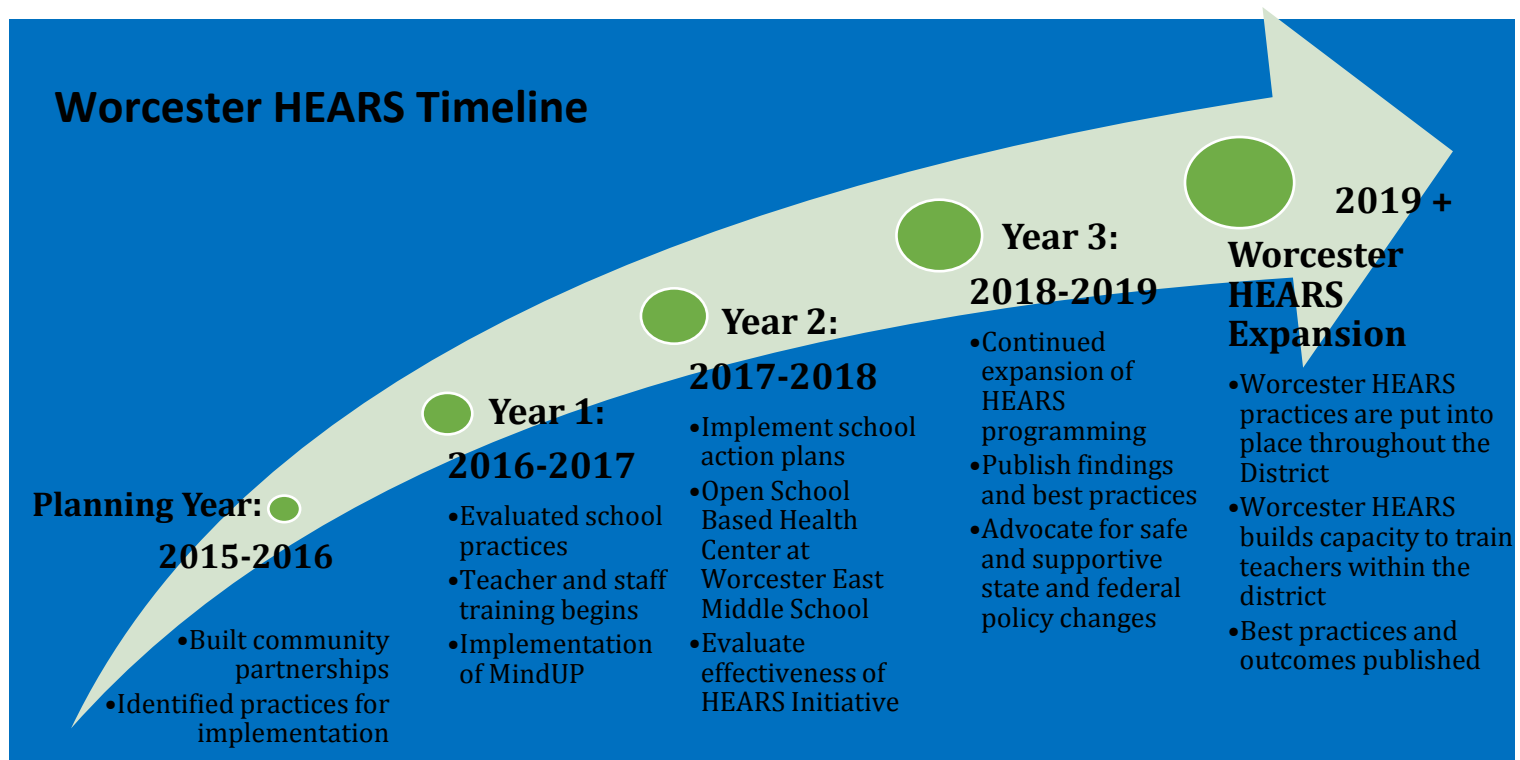
Worcester HEARS Students and Staff

HEARS Participants	District	City View	Grafton	Rice Square	Roosevelt	WEMS	All HEARS
Total Number of Students	25,479	497	409	412	654	816	2,788
Total Number of Staff	3,966	69	44	48	82	92	335

Worcester HEARS Framework



Worcester HEARS Timeline



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE):

- **Abuse** (Emotional, Physical, or Sexual)
- **Household Challenges** (Violence, Substance Abuse, Mental Illness, Criminal Family Member, or Separation/Divorce)
- **Neglect** (Emotional or Physical)