

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nearly 40 School Districts Awarded \$24 Million to Confront Opioid Crisis Head-On

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, the [Public School Districts' Opioid Recovery Trust](#) (PSDORT), announced more than \$24 million in grants to 39 school districts nationwide. The awards—totaling 51 grants of up to \$500,000 each—will fund programs to help schools address the devastating impact of the opioid crisis on students and their families.

Public schools are on the front lines of the crisis, **facing three overlapping challenges**: children born with Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome who require costly special education services; students coping with addicted or deceased family members; and students themselves struggling with addiction. The new funding will help districts expand special education, mental health, and recovery supports so students can stay in school and on track.

PSDORT was created following national opioid litigation [resolutions](#) between school districts represented by [Mehri & Skalet](#) and co-counsel and defendants including McKinsey & Company, Endo International PLC, and Mallinckrodt PLC. By investing directly in schools, the Trust ensures that resources are directed where they are most urgently needed—protecting students' futures as well as responding to the immediate crisis.

Voices from the Field:

Dr. Andres Alonso, Special Trustee of [PSDORT](#):

- *"The opioid crisis has devastated school systems in many communities. More children were born with Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome, many students lost parents to addiction, and others struggled with substance use themselves. The volume, quality, and creativity of the applications we received reflect a powerful commitment to helping these students. The 51 projects we selected represent a diverse portfolio of promising initiatives. We are confident these investments will generate both tangible benefits for students and valuable insights for similarly affected school systems nationwide."*

Karl Kristoff, Committee of District Representatives, longtime counsel for Upstate New York school districts:

- *"Having observed firsthand the process by which the candidates were selected for grant awards, I was most impressed by the rigor with which the award criteria were applied by the multiple reviewers of each grant application. Not only did this provide for a fair process, it also resulted in grants aimed at addressing the impact of the opioid crisis in school districts of widely varying demographics from large and small, rural and urban."*

Joshua Sharfstein, Distinguished Professor of Practice, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health:

- *"School systems are an important part of the solution to the nation's addiction and overdose crisis. Combining data with local insight to build programs that work for families in their own communities is exactly the right approach."*

Dr. Kristen Gingery, Executive Director, Morgan County Partnership, West Virginia:

- *"This grant represents a powerful investment in the future of Morgan County's children and families. As a long-standing community partner, Morgan County Partnership is honored to collaborate with Morgan County Schools in expanding school-based service delivery. The ability to embed trauma-informed interventions and behavioral health supports within the school setting is a transformative step for students who have been deeply affected by the opioid crisis. This grant not only strengthens the school system's capacity to respond to trauma, but it also brings the broader service provider community together to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe and supportive environment. For our families and children, this isn't just funding, it's hope, healing, and the foundation for a better future."*

Dr. Jesse Bacon, Superintendent, Bullitt County Public Schools, Kentucky:

- *"Bullitt County Public Schools is deeply honored to announce the forthcoming allocation of funds from the Public School Districts' Opioid Recovery Trust. This critical financial support will provide key therapeutic and restorative resources to empower the next generation. This is truly a transformative moment for our students and BCPS community."*

About the Selection Process:

PSDORT received more than 200 applications from school districts across 34 states and American Samoa. A distinguished panel of national experts evaluated proposals in a competitive selection process that concluded June 15, 2025. Dr. Alonso consulted with the Committee of District Representatives in the selection of the winning proposals.

The selected projects represent a wide range of initiatives addressing urgent educational needs, including academic interventions, social-emotional learning, and strategies to close opportunity gaps.

Co-lead counsel in the underlying opioid litigation include [Mehri & Skalet](#), [Henrichsen Law Group](#), [Terrell Hogan & Yegelwel](#), and [Bailey Glasser](#).

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