



Trauma-Informed Practices for Schools (TIPS) Lead Team Position Stand on Collecting Student ACES

"Although we recognize the innate desire of educators to take action related to identification of students experiencing trauma, the TIPS Lead Team strongly discourages collecting student Adverse Childhood Experience Scores in a universal manner for the following reasons:

- 1. The trauma sensitive approach is a universal mindset applying the trauma lense to everyday practice rather than identification of select students.*
- 2. The intended use of the ACE survey was for adults over the age of 18 to reflect upon childhood experiences. Collection of student ACE scores does not appear on SAHMSA's registry of best practices. In other words, there is no research to support the practice.*
- 3. Extensive, ongoing school staff training is required to understand the dynamics and impact of trauma.*
- 4. Many students with elevated ACE scores have found resilience amongst adversity.*

A special note to TSS trainers, if you choose to include the ACE survey in your presentation of any module, please indicate that you are in no way suggesting that teachers use this survey for their students.

Finally, the TIPS Lead Team recognizes the importance of educating students on ACES and is investigating augmentation of the TSS curriculum in such a way that students would engage in learning about the health-related complications of unmanaged ACES and regulation strategies in a sensitive manner.