Benefits of becoming a Trauma-informed School

“Trauma is not just a mental health problem. It is an educational problem that, left unaddressed, derails the academic achievement of thousands of children.” –Susan E. Craig (2016)

Framework:
The conceptual framework for this study is based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research. Adverse experiences refer to a range of events that may result in chronic stress responses (National Survey Children’s Health, 2011/12).

ACEs include:
• physical, emotional and sexual abuse
• physical and emotional neglect
• household members with mental illness
• domestic violence
• parental divorce or separation
• substance abuse
• incarceration of a family member

Prevalence:
Nearly 46% of children across the U.S. have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience. ACEs can have detrimental, long-term effects on a child’s physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. (National survey of Children’s Health, 2016)

Benefits:
Becoming a Trauma-informed school can change the negative outcomes for those students who have been impacted by traumatic events (Cevasco, Rossen, Hull, 2017).

A Trauma-informed school may improve
• academic achievement
• school climate
• teacher sense of satisfaction and safety
• teacher retention

A Trauma-informed school may reduce
• behavioral referrals and suspensions
• stress for staff and students
• absences
• bullying and harassment
• the need for special education referrals
• drop-outs
(Oehlberg, B.2008)