



VFP 2025–2026

# Mental Health Continuity Toolkit

Develop and pilot a crisis recovery toolkit helping schools maintain student, staff, and operational continuity during the 90 days following a traumatic event.



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## Challenges

**2 in 10**

US high school students seriously considered suicide in 2023, and nearly 1 in 10 attempted suicide.

**4 in 10**

high school students reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in 2023.

**60%**

of K–12 teachers reported burnout in 2024, making schools less prepared to support students after traumatic events.

## Learnings

★ Schools need a **post-crisis recovery system**, but adoption depends more on **parent trust, liability concerns, and procurement pathways** than on the quality of the idea itself.

★ **Heads of schools are not always the true buyers; boards, insurers, attorneys, and associations** strongly influence adoption.

★ A **technology platform was premature**; schools need a **simple, low-risk toolkit first**.

## Activities

1. Conducted **research on post-crisis recovery gaps in K–12 schools**, focusing on **student mental health, staff burnout, parent trust, and operational continuity** following traumatic events.
2. Engaged **Hoover advisors and other stakeholders** to refine the concept and identify **key barriers to school adoption**.
3. Shifted the project from a **proposed software platform** to a **minimum viable crisis recovery toolkit** delivered through a **secure digital portal**.
4. Designed a **customer discovery strategy** targeting **heads of schools, school attorneys, insurance advisors, and parents** to identify **procurement and trust barriers**.
5. Began **outreach planning** to **private school associations and pilot schools in Virginia**.

**Learn More**  
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