

Date: October 25, 2024

Title: California Student Wellness Index: Development, Validation, and Multi-Tier Applications

Presenter: Dr. Michael (Mike) Furlong – Professor Emeritus, University of California – Santa Barbara

Furlong, M J., Dowdy, E., Nylund-Gibson, K., Chan, M., Hanson, T., O'Malley, M., Goodwin, J., Ortiz, A. (2024, in press). Development, validation, and multitier applications with the California Student Wellness Index.

Contemporary School Psychology.

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Description

This presentation introduces the California School Wellness Index (CSWI), a composite index ranging from 0 to 40, designed to support mental health research and practice in schools. Developed using data from 626,940 California secondary students over the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years, the CSWI underwent rigorous psychometric and normative analyses. It also demonstrated concurrent validity with the Social Emotional Health Survey-Secondary (N = 78,769, collected in 2020/21), as well as stability and predictive validity with the Mental Health Continuum-Short Form (N = 1,828, collected in 2020/21 and 2021/22). The Online Supplemental Material offers valuable insights into using the CSWI across Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) levels for diverse research and clinical applications. <https://linktr.ee/covitalityucsb>

Bio

Michael Furlong, Ph.D., is a Research Professor and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of School Psychology at the **University of California, Santa Barbara**. He has received the 2022 School Mental Health Research Award from the National School Mental Health Center and the 2021-22 UCSB Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professorship in recognition of his contributions. Dr. Furlong's expertise includes providing consultation and support to the California Department of Education and WestEd on California Healthy Kids Survey matters. He is also a co-editor of the **Handbook of Positive Psychology in Schools** (2009, 2014, 2022) and a dedicated collaborator on **Project Covitality**. Dr. Furlong is committed to advancing school-based mental health services and promoting students' social-emotional development. His dedication to enhancing school climate and safety is evident in his 45 years of

experience in K-12 and higher education. He offers guidance and support as a school mental health trainer and researcher, specializing in designing and executing mental health services within an MTSS framework. Currently, Dr. Furlong provides technical assistance for the **METRICS federally-funded technical assistance center**. METRICS supports the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program, which addresses the shortage of school-based mental health practitioners to cultivate a robust mental health workforce in K-12 schools nationwide.

<https://linktr.ee/mjfurlong>

