



## Students, Therapists, Educators and Parents United in Prevention

### Primary Program Goals include:

• Increase access to mental

health supports

• Promote early  
identification/intervention

- Create a supportive environment
- Improve student self-advocacy
- Reduce risk of school violence
- Establish a County-wide network of collaboration and best practices with educational and behavioral health stakeholders

- **Crisis Help** - Immediate links are designed to take users to the appropriate resource in the event of a crisis or emergency.
- **Resources and Services** - Students, therapists, educators and parents are provided a description, contact info and link to an approved categorized list of resources and services.
- **Toolbox** - A comprehensive collection of tools designed to assist students, therapists, educators and parents. These include, but are not limited to, learning modules, documents, strategies and curriculum support that assist with educating students in the area of mental health and safe and secure schools.
- **Ask an Expert** - An interactive forum that allows users to post a question that can be addressed by an expert who can provide timely answers and direction.
- **Just for Students** - A space dedicated to the voice of the student, providing a place for students to provide peer support through video projects, writings or other creative means.





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## **Introduction and Purpose of STEP UP Westmoreland**

To improve school safety and security, the Westmoreland County Office of Behavioral Health/Developmental Services, the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7 and the School Districts of Westmoreland County created a comprehensive program that seeks to build confidence, resilience and optimism among students, while also removing barriers to critically needed mental health intervention services.

The program is titled **STEP UP Westmoreland**, and its goal is to support the academic, social and emotional success of ALL students by creating caring, safe and positive educational environments. We created a Countywide best practice network of mental health services through the collaboration of schools, families, communities and behavioral health stakeholders. The program is based on research about school safety and security, including equal access to behavioral and mental health services.



[stepupwestmoreland.org](http://stepupwestmoreland.org)

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