Problem:
Durham, North Carolina has become a new destination for Latino immigrants. They and their children often have emotional and behavioral health needs related to the stress of immigration, traumatic experiences while immigrating, and adjustments to a new life in the US.

Solution:
Build on Duke’s network of three elementary school-based health centers to offer bilingual, bicultural mental health services that help teachers and parents as well as kids.

Program:
BieneStar provides prevention and early intervention services and outreach to parents and teachers at the three schools. Using a licensed bilingual clinical social worker and a bilingual/bicultural health educator, the project delivers group counseling and individual treatment for students; school-wide education about mental and behavioral health issues for staff and students, and cultural competence training for teachers and other staff. Project staff members organize school orientation sessions for Latino parents or other family members.

Impact:
Preliminary data indicate student performance in class has improved.