



Claudia-Santi F. Fernandes, Ed.D., LPC, MCHES, NCC

Claudia-Santi F. Fernandes, Ed.D., LPC, MCHES, NCC is a mental health and wellness expert with over 15 years of experience in public schools, clinical settings, and research institutions. After completing her bachelor's, Dr. Fernandes taught and developed a compelling interest in bridging the achievement gap through school support services with a specific focus on mental health and wellness. This interest led her to become a bilingual school counselor where she supported student development through evidence-based counseling interventions and programs. As a career highlight, she played a leadership role in opening a Bard High School Early College in Newark, New Jersey. She was Director of Student Activities and organized school-wide initiatives that concentrated on social and emotional learning and talent development as students worked toward a high school diploma and an AA degree from Bard College. After Bard, Dr. Fernandes was a project director at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. She received her BA from Villanova University, MA from NYU Steinhardt, and doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College.

Currently, Dr. Fernandes is Associate Research Scientist at the Yale Center for Health & Learning Games. As part of the play2PREVENT and play4REAL Labs, she conducts research involving the design, development, and evaluation of digital health interventions and educational technology, including videogame interventions. Other research interests include evidence-based school interventions that improve teen mental health and wellness, student performance, and graduation rates; the translation of policies into practice; and, successful transitions from high school to postsecondary education and employment. She aims to use evidence-based research to inform federal-, state-, and local-level policies and provide support to schools in implementation.

As part of CT Psychiatric & Wellness Center, Dr. Fernandes also practices as a licensed professional counselor and is currently accepting a limited number of clients. She provides outpatient psychotherapy and specializes in treating adolescents, young adults, and families. She is also a clinician on the School Consultation Program (SCP) where the team provides evaluation and treatment services to schools.