



**CHARLES COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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Superintendent of Schools

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October 31, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker Maryland House of Delegates
H-101, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
Senate of Maryland H-107,
State House 100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Charles County Public Schools, Section 7 of HB 1300 of 2020/Ch 36 of 2021 as amended by HB 1372/Ch 55 of 2021

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

The School Behavioral Health Report for Charles County Public Schools is enclosed for your review. As requested, five hard copies will be sent to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services.

For additional information or questions, please contact Kevin Lowndes, Chief of Teaching and Learning at 301.934.7377 or klowndes@ccboe.com.

Sincerely,

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Charles County Public Schools
Expanding and Enhancing School Based Behavior Health Services
2022

Services provided in school setting, referrals made to community providers, and how these services will be expanded or enhanced.

Each of our schools have a Student Services Team. Each team has a School Counselor(s), School Psychologist, Pupil Personnel Worker (PPWs), and a School Nurse. The team works in collaboration with other school personnel to assess the needs of students through the Student Support Team, or referrals from home. Our Student Services staff consult with students individually or in small group settings to provide support and make recommendations to the family for wrap-around services. Our PPWs are equipped to not only assist with recommendations for wrap-around services to providers, but also assist with transportation support if necessary. We are fortunate to partner with Tri-County Youth Services who provide each of our schools with a counselor to support the growing need for services.

Mental Health/Behavioral Assessments are done by our School Psychologists in collaboration with the counseling team. Safe screening, risk and threat assessments are handled through the model policy process and are afforded priority when dealing with our student population. Referrals for wrap-around services are made when needed.

Each of the services provided are tracked through our information system where our counselors and PPW's keep a record of accommodations or recommendations made. The system is also available for SST teams to assess school-wide data to base decisions on appropriate supports for students.

Family and community members are kept current on mental health supports and programs through the CCBOE Mental Health page. This site provides families and community members with a resource page of providers, activities for families and students, school contact information, and system-wide offerings for family and community events.

Enhancements and expansion:

Aspire: This program is being expanded to a regionalized program. It was only available to students who attended the schools where the program existed. With the need to support more students in other schools, the program is being expanded to four schools strategically placed throughout the county. Transportation is being provided

Additional Behavioral Support Personnel:

- *Three Behavior Support Teachers and a Coordinator will provide necessary training and guidance to school staff that are working with challenging student behaviors*
- *Two mental health personnel positions have been grant funded by the Charles County Department of Health. The personnel will be placed at Stethem Educational Center and Stoddert Middle School. These locations were chosen to support the high needs of students in need of mental health supports.*

BASELine: This self-report tool identifies social emotional strengths and areas of growth for secondary students. It is a universal screener that will provide data to schools in support of decision making for mental health programs and individual needs of students. Provided for the first time this year at all secondary schools.

PPW Community Resource Day: This activity was the first for our PPW staff to host and it provided opportunities for our families to learn more about and gain valuable resource information from our mental health community partners. This year we had over 60 community partners who shared information with over 500 participants in attendance. This will be an annual event.

Signs Of Suicide (SOS): This program was piloted in three high schools last year and is being expanded to all High Schools this year. Students participate in health class to learn how to identify signs of depression and suicide in themselves and their friends.

HERO program: This mentoring program has been expanded through grant funds to support four more schools. Originally implemented at four elementary schools, this program teaches students coping and resiliency skills.

Professional Development/Workshops/Materials

- *Professional development expansion: Trauma informed care for all staff; Mental Health Self Care Training for support staff; Crisis Prevention Institute Training (CPI) offered to school based teams (De-escalation strategies); Additional Safe Schools training on grooming and child abuse; Peach by Piece Trauma Training – a book student for school staff.*
- *Workshops: Upon request from community or schools – School counselors, school psychologists, and PPWs will provide workshop sessions (various topics upon request)*
- *Materials: New Zones of Regulations Curriculum books distributed, Motivational Speaker funds offered to secondary schools for presentations; Student Services “Behavioral Health” Library materials – to be shared with schools upon request.*



**Expanding School Based Behavior Health Services
2022**

Charles County Public Schools continues to enhance a multi-tiered school-based behavior health plan by implementing the following programs, strategies, and instruction:

COUNTY-WIDE SUPPORTS	TARGETED DATE	SUCCESS CRITERIA
TIER I INITIATIVES		
CULTURE, CLIMATE & ENGAGEMENT GOALS: All schools have chosen a Culture, Climate, & Engagement goal that is imbedded in their School Improvement Plan. Many have chosen to enhance their practices in areas of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports), Restorative Practices, Social Emotional Learning, and Community Engagement. Schools will be receiving regular professional development on the topics chosen by their school for growth. Professional Learning Teams will be responsible for implementation at their schools.	September 2022 through June 2023	Schools reaching their CCE goals on their SIP (School Improvement Plans); Positive results on climate survey through student, staff, and parent responses
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: MSDE identified Dr. Mudd Elementary School as a Community School in the 2021-22 school year. A needs assessment indicated that affordable and accessible mental health services were the primary identified needs of the school community. Indian Head Elementary School is in the process of conducting a needs assessment during this first school year of their program. A Community School nurse with pediatric psychiatric nursing experience was hired to support the mental health needs of the Indian Head community. The community school coordinators and nurses at both sites provide wraparound referrals and services for their students and families to our partner agencies including behavioral health services, dental, vision, and medical care.	September 2021 through June 2023	Increased initiatives and programs to support the school community; Increased attendance; Positive results on the climate survey; Increased referrals for wrap-around services; Increase in community partnerships
BASELINE: A self-report tool that identifies secondary students' social emotional strengths and areas of growth to provide real time	Assessment taken 3 times per year:	After data analysis - More positive student

support. Assesses thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors that occur in the students' school learning environment. Schools assess data to drive their school improvement in Culture, Climate & Engagement.	Windows: October 3 through 14 February 6 through 17 May 30 through June 15	responses as initiatives and programs are implemented at school
MOVE THIS WORLD: Schools utilize the social emotional learning program to strengthen skills within the five core CASEL competencies for CCPS (Charles County Public Schools) elementary school students through 6th grade students. Classroom teachers provide instruction and practice two to three times a week as part of their instruction.	September 2022-June 2023	Reduced disciplinary referrals; Observed strategies in classroom
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID: School staff are offered Mental Health First Aid training to develop participants' awareness about mental health and substance use disorders as well as warning signs for suicide.	January 2022-December 2023	Reduced disciplinary referrals; Increased referrals for mental health support
SIGNS OF SUICIDE (SOS): The evidence-based program is designed for middle and high school students that teaches youth to identify signs of depression and suicide in themselves and their friends. All high schools will implement the SOS program during the fall and spring semesters in their health classes.	October 2022-May 2023	Increased referrals for behavioral health support at school building
SAFE SCHOOLS TRAINING: Staff complete annual mandatory training in the areas of child abuse and neglect, suicide awareness and prevention, and student mental health awareness, intervention, and referral.	August 2022-October 2022	Increased behavioral health referrals; Positive results on climate survey
TRAUMA INFORMED CARE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES FOR STAFF AND FAMILIES: Support staff are provided training on trauma recognition and ways to support students along with de-escalation strategies. Trauma-informed training is provided for all certificated staff. In addition, trauma informed care resources are available on mental health webpage.	October 2021-June 2023	Increased behavioral health referrals from staff and parents; increased attendance and engagement of students
FUNDING FOR MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS AND MATERIALS: Secondary schools are provided funds for motivational speakers of presentations to reenergize and reengage students; School Based Student Service staff are provided funds for books, curriculum, games, videos, and materials for the development of students' social emotional well-being.	October 2021 – June 2023	Positive climate survey results; observed engagement of students; reduced disciplinary referrals; increased attendance
PPW (Pupil Personnel Worker) COMMUNITY RESOURCES DAY: The pupil personnel workers provide the community an opportunity	May 2023	Attendance at the event; number of local mental/behavioral health

to connect with supportive Charles County mental health partners and their services.		vendors to disseminate information; positive results on climate survey; positive results on feedback survey from event
MENTAL HEALTH WEB PAGE: The web page provides resources, activities, and information for wrap-around services to our community members. The information is updated regularly and is recommended for all parents, students, and staff members	All year	Positive responses from the webpage feedback form
TIER II INITIATIVES		
CRISIS PREVENTION INSTITUTE (CPI) TRAINING: School administrators and Student Services receive annual training in de-escalation techniques and behavior management strategies to create a culture of safety.	August 2022-January 2023	Targeted for specific staff to decrease restraints and decrease staff injuries; Less major offense behavior due to de-escalation implemented strategies
MENTOR PROGRAM: The HEROS mentor program is an adult/child mentoring program at four elementary schools focused on teaching students coping and resiliency skills. Available at 8 elementary schools.	September 2022-May 2023	Increased referrals for behavioral health support and improved coping strategies demonstrated by students.
GROUP COUNSELING: School counselors/school psychologists are equipped with curriculum and resources to develop lessons for small groups including social skills, anger management, loss of a loved one, etc.	September 2022-May 2023	Positive climate survey results; observed engagement of students; reduced disciplinary referrals; increased attendance
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS: School counselors, school psychologists, and pupil personnel workers provide behavioral health workshops/sessions at various community events based on request to raise behavioral health awareness.	September 2022-May 2023	Feedback from exit survey for each session
PEACE BY PIECE TRAUMA TRAINING: Certificated staff may participate in a Trauma Informed Practices Book Study Program and earn two CPD credits. A series of eight professional development sessions is provided.		Observation of implemented strategies; positive feedback from session attendees; increased referrals for behavioral support and less behavior referrals
TIER III INITIATIVES		
ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH STAFF: Working in collaboration with the Charles County Department of Health, grant funds have been acquired to hire two mental health personnel to support students in high needs facilities. Stethem Educational Center and Stoddert Middle School have been identified.	Hire staff – November Grant funds for one year/will request as a budget item for following years	Intervention data and support documentation for students

<p>ASPIRE: The Aspire program is designed to provide a data-driven, highly structured, safe, and positive classroom environment for kindergarten through second grade students who demonstrate persistently maladaptive behavior that impedes their ability to access academic curriculum. The program has been regionalized and will be housed at four elementary schools throughout the county. A centralized team will review the support and tiered accommodations prior to accepting the students into the program.</p>	<p>October 2022 Personnel has been hired/schools must collect data and justify referral before submission</p>	<p>The number of students enrolled in the program and exited back to regular classroom instruction. Documented tiered school interventions that result in no referral.</p>
<p>SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (TCYSB): The Tri-County Youth Services Bureau, Inc. (TCYSB) school-based program provides integrated mental health services for school-aged children throughout Charles County. TCYSB school-based clinicians work with students in elementary, middle, and high school, to support students in overcoming behavioral, emotional, and social challenges that interfere with success at school and at home.</p>	<p>October 2022-December 2023</p>	<p>Increased referrals for service; reduced disciplinary referrals; positive results on the climate survey from students; increased attendance</p>
<p>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS: Schools utilize a team approach to complete behavioral health assessments which identify students at risk of harming themselves or others and develop individual support for the students.</p>	<p>August 2022-June 2023</p>	<p>Increased behavioral health and intervention planning team referrals and decreased incidents of repeated violence at school</p>
<p>BASE EDUCATION: BASE is a social emotional learning program utilized in grades 6 through 12. Individual students are assigned modules to strengthen skills within the five core CASEL competencies as related to a behavior infraction or social skills need.</p>	<p>September 2022-June 2023</p>	<p>Reduced disciplinary referrals; increased usage of program; Data driven support plans created</p>
<p>HANDLE WITH CARE: We have partnered with First Responders to receive information when there is a traumatic event in a home with a CCPS student. Notification is sent to our Safety & Security Director and the Director of Student Services. Notification to the school principal is made and students are monitored and afforded needed assistance or support. First responders who report are recognized by CCPS with a certificate and challenge coin.</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>Increased attendance; engagement of students affected; increased number of notices</p>
<p>BEHAVIOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL: Three Behavior Support Teachers and a Coordinator have been hired to provide training and guidance to schools that have students demonstrating challenging behaviors. They will make recommendations and model best practices in supporting teachers' and students' behavioral, social/emotional needs.</p>	<p>October 2022</p>	<p>Evaluation of teachers and coordinator; Increased behavior plans along with learned teaching strategies</p>