

# Superintendent's Report

**Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.**

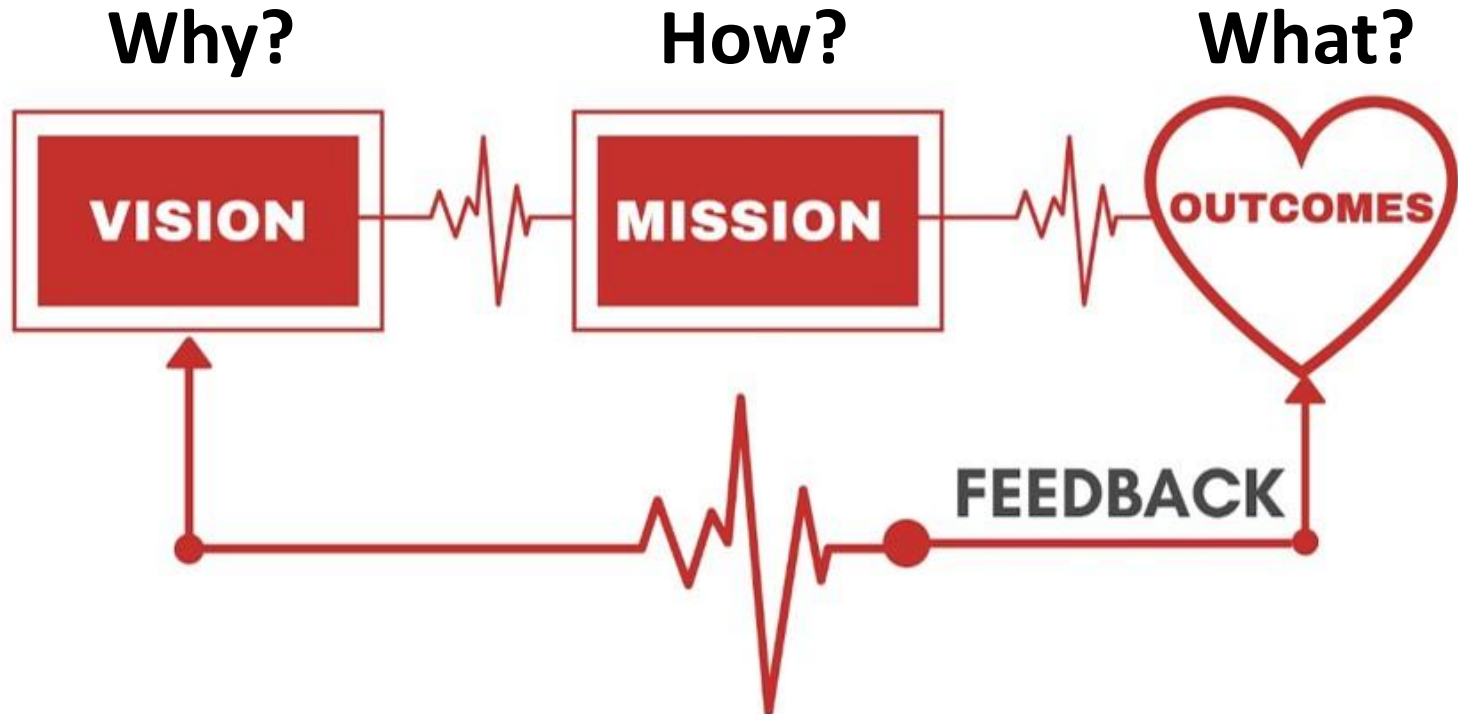
**Superintendent**

School District Five of Lexington and  
Richland Counties

March 14, 2022



# We Are a System



System – A group of units so combined as to **form a whole and to operate in unison**

Source: Merriam Webster Dictionary



**"We and Grow  
Our Students!"**

# Our Mission

The mission of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, in partnership with our stakeholders, is to prepare all students to be college and career ready by providing a challenging curriculum in a safe, secure, diverse, and equitable learning environment focused on academic, social, and emotional growth and development.

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Levels of Mitigation  
COVID-19 Operations Guidance for D5 Schools

Using the most recent guidance from DHEC (February 22, 2022), District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties has created Mitigation Levels for the operations of schools and **district offices**. Each level is intended to help schools **and district offices** communicate, prepare and implement mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

The layered prevention strategies are:

<p><b>BLUE</b> Level One - <u>Open</u> with no mitigation</p>	<p>*Operate according to normal policies and procedures.  <b>*Implementation when DHEC no longer provides school guidance and/or reports COVID data.</b></p>
<p><b>GREEN</b> Level Two - Open <u>Low</u> Mitigation if:  <u>Low</u> community transmission  &amp;  <u>Low</u> positive rate on District COVID 19 Dashboard (less than 5%)</p>	<p>*Encourage hand washing and respiratory etiquette. *COVID health room protocols remain in place. *Symptomatic students and staff will be required to wear a mask while in the health room/athletic trainer's office. *Students and staff should perform daily assessments per the self screening checklist <a href="#">Self screening checklist</a> <b>*Visitors and volunteers allowed and should self assess prior to entering the school and/or district buildings.</b> *COVID cleaning and disinfecting procedure in place for building and buses. <b>*Field trips allowed with consideration of community transmission at field trip destination. Sponsors of trips are strongly encouraged to consult field trip destinations regarding applicable COVID Precautions.</b></p>
<p><b>YELLOW</b> Level Three - Open <u>Moderate</u> Mitigation if:  <u>Moderate</u> community transmission  <u>Moderate</u> positive rate on District COVID 19 Dashboard (5%-10%)</p>	<p>*Encourage mask wearing. *Encourage social distancing to the extent possible. *Encourage hand washing and respiratory etiquette. *COVID health room protocols remain in place. *Symptomatic students and staff will be required to wear a mask while in the health room/athletic trainer's office. *Students and staff should perform daily assessments per the self screening checklist <a href="#">Self screening checklist</a> *Visitors with clear educational or medical purpose allowed and strongly encourage mask. *Volunteers with clear educational or medical purpose allowed and strongly encourage mask. *COVID cleaning and disinfecting procedure in place for building and buses <b>*Field trips limited. Special consideration to be given to internships,</b></p>

	<p><b>competitions, and class assignments off campus.</b> <b>*Implement Test to Stay or Quarantine per DHEC Guidance as applicable.</b></p>
<p><b>ORANGE</b> Level Four - Open <u>High</u> Mitigation if:  <u>High</u> community transmission  <u>High</u> positive rate on District COVID 19 Dashboard (greater than 10%)</p>	<p>*Encourage mask wearing. *Encourage social distancing to the extent possible. *Encourage hand washing and respiratory etiquette. *COVID health room protocols remain in place. *Symptomatic students and staff will be required to wear a mask while in the health room/athletic trainer's office. *Students and staff should perform daily assessments per the self screening checklist <a href="#">Self screening checklist</a> *Increase COVID Exclusion criteria for students and staff. *Visitors and volunteers are not allowed. *COVID cleaning and disinfecting procedure in place for buildings and buses *Field trips <u>suspended</u>. Special consideration to be given to students that need to attend internships and complete class assignments off campus. <b>*Implement Test to Stay or Quarantine per DHEC Guidance as applicable.</b> *Consider putting high risk sports and extracurricular activities on hold. *Consider abbreviated school day and/or weekly schedule to allow for more intense sanitation. *Consider use of optional screening testing programs.</p>
<p><b>RED</b> Level Five - Buildings <u>Closed</u> Virtual Learning</p>	<p>Students will receive Virtual Learning and buildings will be closed by Governor mandate or Superintendent</p>

- Daily COVID dashboard reporting to continue. The Nursing Supervisor will alert the Superintendent of increasing trends as needed.
- Athletics will follow guidelines put forth by the SC High School League.
- Mitigation Guidance based on [COVID 19 Interim Guidance for K-12 School Operations](#)
- **Maximally** Vaccinated people and people verified (positive PCR or antigen test) to have been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. Individuals may voluntarily choose to provide documentation of their full vaccination status to eliminate the need for quarantine. **Maximally** vaccinated people are recommended to get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and it is important for them to wear a mask at school until **10** days after exposure or they receive a negative test result.
- **All people in the school setting are allowed to wear a mask (should they choose) and steps should be taken to ensure students and staff are not criticized for doing so.**

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# LR5 Mental Wellness Supports

## Addition of Clinical Counselors



JENNIFER FELKEL, LMSW, MPH

*Coordinator of Family Literacy, Parenting and Social  
Work Services*

BETH HOOK, MSW, LMSW

Lead for D5 Clinical Counselors

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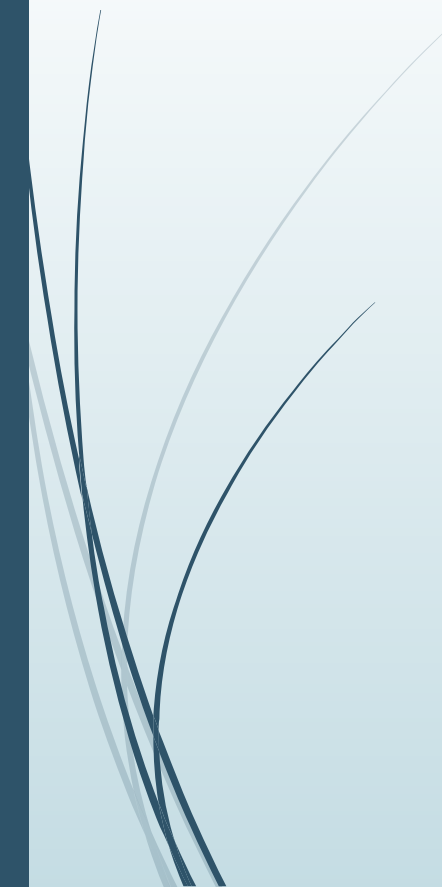
# Existing D5 Mental Wellness Supports

- School Counselors
- School Psychologists
- School Social Workers

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## Additional Supports

- School Resource Officer
- Behavior Interventionist
- Expectation Coaches





# The Details

- Nine D5 Clinical Counselors
- Master's degree specializing in counseling and in most instances are licensed by the Department of Labor and Licensing as licensed professional counselor or licensed social worker
- Located in all schools including CATE, Adult Ed, The NEST
- School assignments – **Data driven and Needs based**
- Base office: Services may include base office school and other assigned schools (2-4 schools)
- Availability after school hours to work with families
- Supervised by Lead for D5 Clinical Counselor



# OVERARCHING ROLES of the D5 Clinical Counselor

- Help students and families successfully navigate the social, emotional and academic challenges faced at school and in the community.
- Collaborate with the school staff to offer solutions to managing challenging behaviors in the classroom and during transitions.
- Uphold ethics and confidentiality consistent with the D5 Clinical Counselor's license governed by the licensure board while with guardian/student consent, allowing the D5 Clinical Counselor to work in the best interest of both the student and the school milieu.

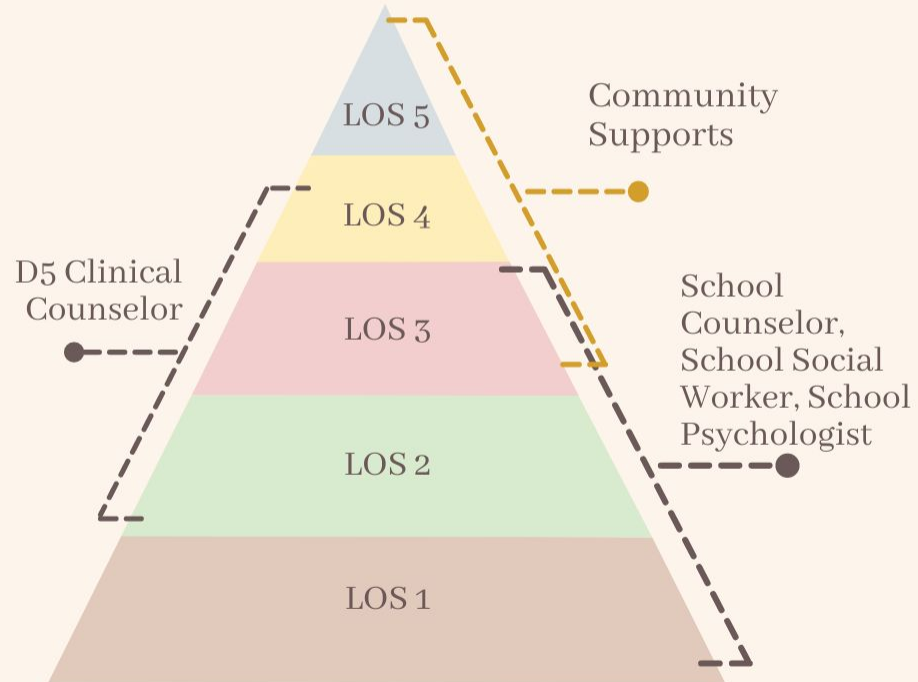
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## PRIMARY EXPECTATIONS:

Direct Services - Help students and families successfully navigate the social, emotional and academic challenges faced at school and in the community.

- Provide voluntary and confidential individual, family and group psychotherapy counseling services in assigned schools to students with guardian permission
- Maintain communication with families throughout course of counseling sessions
- Assist in de-escalation of crisis situations and safety planning specific to students served (caseload)

# LEVEL OF SUPPORT TIERS





**Any Questions?**

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Magnet Schools of America

**National Merit Awards**

**The Magnet School of Merit Awards recognizes member schools/programs that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, specialized teaching staff, and parent and community involvement.**

**EXCELLENCE + INNOVATION + LEADERSHIP + COMMUNITY**

# Merit Schools of Excellence and Distinction

**HEC Elementary School  
Leadership Magnet and  
Montessori Magnet**

**Spring Hill High School Career  
Pathways Magnet**

**Dutch Fork High School STEM  
Program Magnet**

**Irmo High School International  
School for the Arts Magnet**

**Leaphart Elementary School  
STEAM Magnet**

**Nursery Road Elementary School  
Arts Magnet**

# Nationally Certified Magnet Schools

**Spring Hill High School Career  
Pathways Magnet**

**Irmo Middle School International  
Academic Magnet**

**Irmo High School International  
School for the Arts Magnet**

**Dutch Fork Elementary School  
Academy of Environmental  
Sciences**

# Irmo Middle School International Academic Magnet MSA Poster Contest Entry - Middle School Finalist





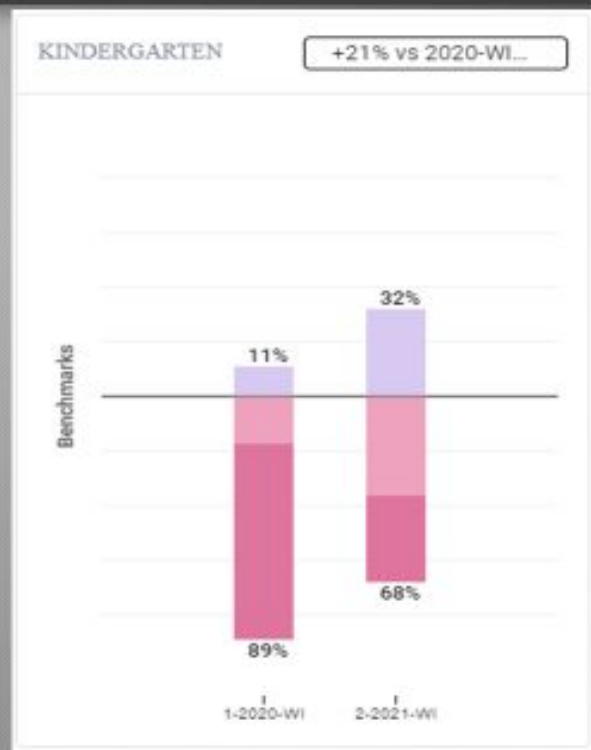
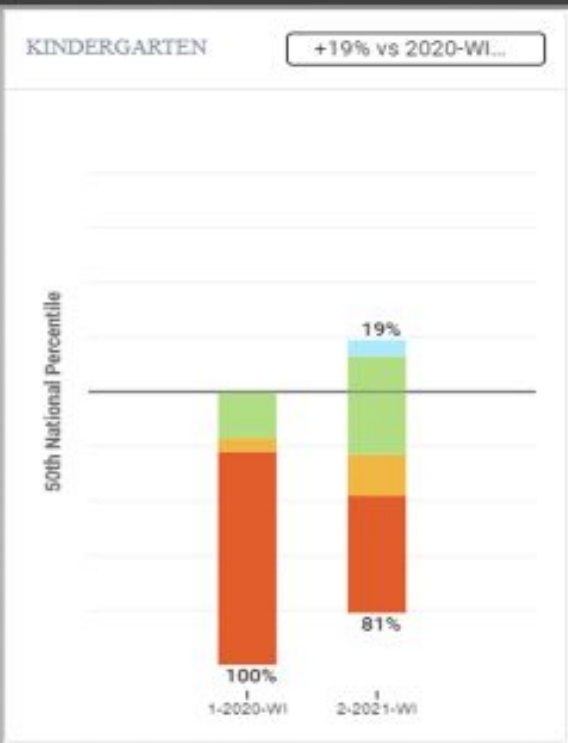
## Literacy Update

**How are our youngest readers?**

# FastBridge ~ Early Literacy Screening Data



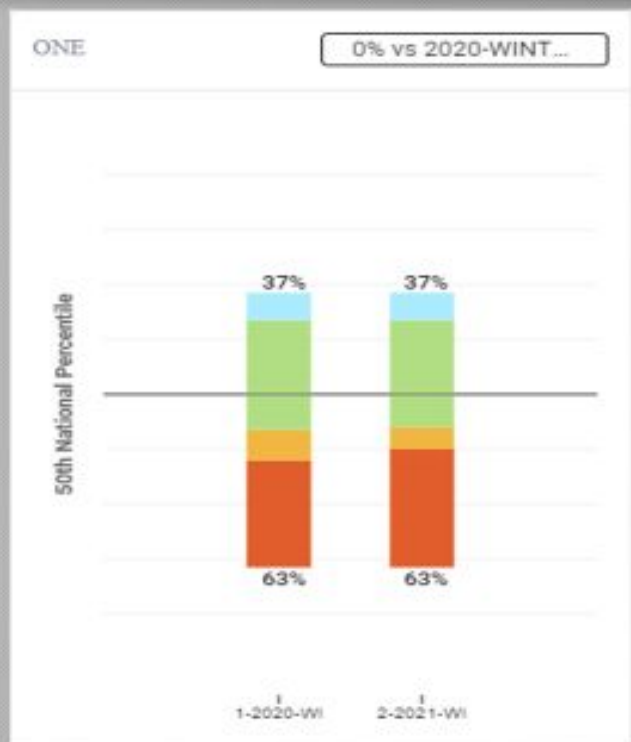
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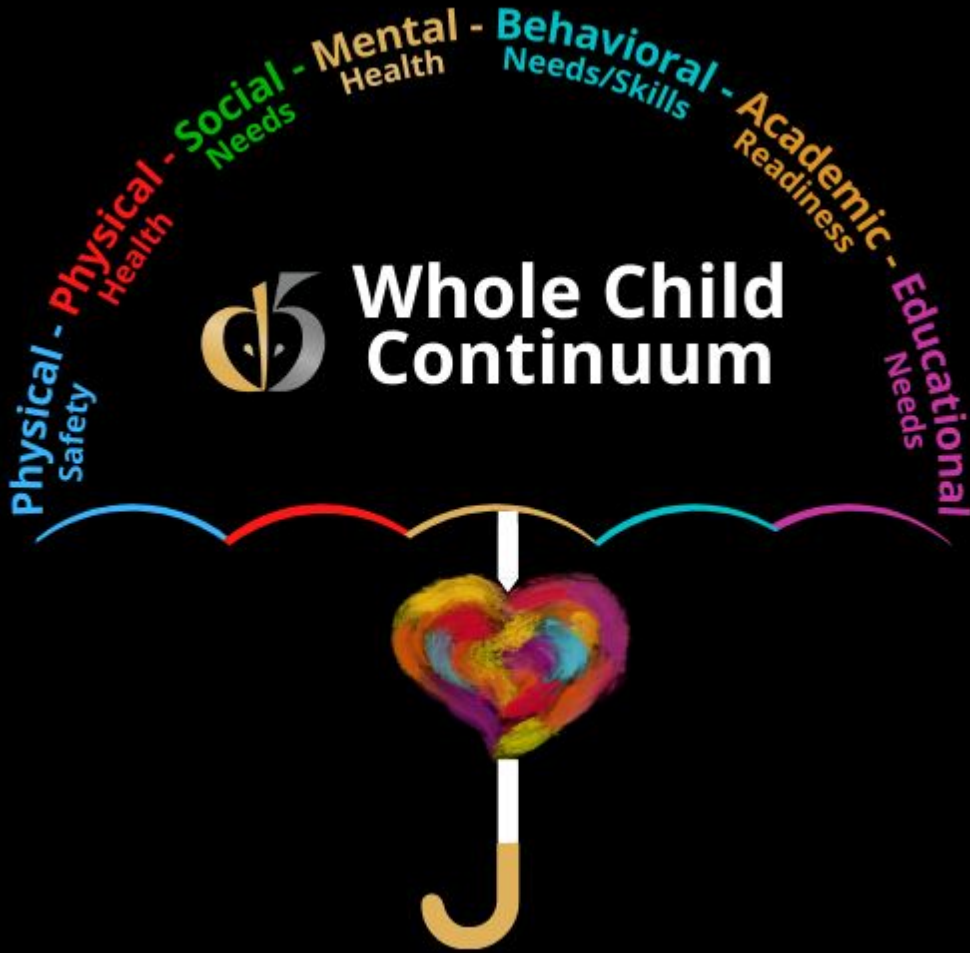


# Tips for Parents of Young Readers

- Read with your child daily and ask who, what, when, where and why questions to improve comprehension skills.
- Ask your child to find high frequency words within the text as you are reading with them. You can find this list here: [D5 Word Study](#)
- May 2 Literacy Night for all District Parents of students in grades PK - 1st grade 6:00 - 7:00 @ Irmo Elementary

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### **Physical Health:**

New Mitigation Protocols

### **Social Needs:**

New Education Funding Model

### **Mental Health/Wellness Supports**

- School Counselors
- School Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Clinical Counselors

### **Academic Readiness:**

Fastbridge Screening

### **Educational Needs:**

Tips for Parents of Young Readers

