

Strategic Plan | Specific Result Report

Goal 8 Action Plan Year 3 Priorities – 2019-2020

Goal 8:

Katy ISD will actively support the emotional well-being of all learners.

Specific Result:

8.4 Provide activities to engage stakeholders and build positive relationships.

Summary Report:

Seven Legacy Parent Academy sessions were held between August 2019 and February 2020, covering a range of social-emotional learning topics in both English and Spanish, including mental health awareness, cyberbullying, vaping, preparing for successful transition between educational levels, social media and internet safety. These seven sessions combined reached over 1,800 participants between in-person attendees and livestream viewers. COVID-19 forced cancellation of spring sessions addressing drug and alcohol awareness and human trafficking.

Trauma-informed practices are evidence-based practices that acknowledge and address the social-emotional needs of all school stakeholders, leading to a healthier school climate, higher academic achievement and fewer behavioral issues. Having these practices in place is key to the health of a school system. Katy ISD currently has 122 personnel, including school counselors, LSSPs, social workers and the Bullying Prevention Coordinator, trained as certified trauma practitioners. By the end of July, 151 individuals will be certified, with 89 holding advanced certifications. This team will provide campus-based trauma-informed training in the 2020-21 school year. In addition to the certified practitioners, over 600 Katy ISD employees, including administrators, teachers, nurses and paraprofessionals, have participated in trauma-informed training opportunities since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The Family Support Center, which began in the Spring of 2019 to assist families of special education students, was expanded beyond special education as a resource for parents of all students in the Fall of 2019. This service provides counseling and parent training in six week increments. Over the course of the current school year, 15 staff members conducted 24 parent trainings and provided counseling to 48 Katy ISD families.

The District was awarded the Rebuild Texas grant in the Spring of 2019 to support six elementary and four junior high campuses that were heavily impacted by Hurricane Harvey and identified as needing additional support. Character Strong (known as Purposeful People at the elementary campus level) was implemented on these campuses along with professional development. Additional grant support will go into effect when school resumes, including professional development for campus and District personnel. The District will implement Character Strong at all secondary campuses and Purposeful People at all elementary campuses beginning with the 2020-21 school year.

Assessing mental health support has been a focus area throughout the 2019-2020 school year. A multi-disciplinary team of district-level personnel was formed to gain perspective from various departments and develop a needs assessment modeled after the National Center for School Mental Health survey.

The needs assessment has now been extended to campus administrators, school counselors and LSSPs to gauge areas of strength and where additional support is needed. Results of the needs assessment will be used to inform priorities for supporting the emotional well-being of all learners.

The District team is also collaborating to develop a mental health resource guide. The guide is intended to supplement mandatory trainings that are completed by all personnel in the early fall of each school year to assist staff in supporting various needs, including bullying, trauma, child abuse/neglect, suicide and substance abuse.

The Katy Mental Health Intervention Team (KMHIT) was formed in May 2020, including Katy ISD police officers trained in mental health as well as school counselors and LSSPs. The purpose of KMHIT is to provide consultation and directly respond to student and staff crises that involve mental health and risk of safety, including behavioral threats and suicidal ideation.