

MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION PLAN TEMPLATE

A. Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan

- Describe the delivery of evidence-based mental health assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment and recovery through a multi-tiered system of supports.
- State how the plan will focus on evidence-based mental health services for students with one or more co-occurring mental health or substance abuse diagnoses and students at high risk of such diagnoses.
- Describe the process for coordinating mental health services for students at charter schools that are part of the school district's plan.
- Include direct employment of school-based mental health services providers (i.e., school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors and other licensed mental health professionals) to reduce staff-to-student ratios and meet student mental health assistance needs.
- Identify strategies to increase the amount of time student services personnel spend providing direct mental health services (e.g., review and revision of staffing allocations based on school or student mental health assistance needs).
- State how the plan will establish school board policies and procedures for all schools, including charter schools, to ensure:
 1. Students referred for a mental health screening are assessed within 15 days of referral;
 2. School-based mental health services are initiated within 15 days of identification and assessment; and
 3. Community-based mental health services are initiated within 30 days of referral.
- Describe the process for coordinating mental health services with a student's primary mental health care provider and other mental health providers involved in the student's care.
- Identify strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-risk students developing social, emotional or behavioral problems; depression; anxiety disorders; suicidal tendencies; or substance abuse disorders.
- Identify strategies to:
 1. Improve the early identification of social, emotional or behavioral problems or substance abuse disorders;
 2. Improve the provision of early intervention services; and
 3. Assist students dealing with trauma and violence.

B. Expenditures

- Number and licensure/certification of school-based mental health providers funded by the allocation.
- Number and licensure of community-based mental health providers funded by the allocation.
- School district expenditures for services provided by contract-based collaborative efforts or partnerships with community-based mental health program agencies or providers.
- Other expenditures.

C. Expenditure Assurances

- State how 100 percent of funds are used to expand school-based mental health care; train educators in responding to mental health issues; and connect children, youth and families with appropriate behavioral health services.
- Provide a statement that ensures the Mental Health Assistance Allocation does not supplant other funding sources, increase salaries or provide staff bonuses.
- Describe how the district will maximize the use of other sources of funding to provide school-based mental health services (e.g., Medicaid reimbursement, third-party payments and grants).

D. Program Implementation and Programs

- Identify the number and ratios of Florida Department of Education-certified or licensed school-based mental health services providers employed by the district (i.e., school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors and other mental health services providers by licensure type).
- Describe a system for tracking the number of students at high risk for mental health or co-occurring substance abuse disorders who received mental health screenings or assessments; the number of students referred to school-based mental health services providers; the number of students referred to community-based mental health services providers; the number of students who received school-based interventions, services or assistance; and the number of students who received community-based interventions, services or assistance.