

The School District of Manatee County

Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan
2019 – 2020



Developed by

The School District of Manatee County

ESE Department

School District of Manatee County Mental Health Plan/Supports

Tier 1

- Mental Health Screener
- Sandy Hook Promise
 - Say Something
 - Start with Hello
 - Safety Assessment/Intervention
 - Warning signs of suicide
 - Free Electronic Monitoring
- Mental Health Clinic
- CHAMPS/Discipline at the Secondary Level
- Mental Health information request added to school registration form
- Monitoring button in SIS system for Mental Health referrals
- Staff trainings for mental health to include:
 - Youth Mental Health First Aide
 - Speak Up for Kids annual Mental Health Conference
 - Every Day Behavior Tools Trainings (Level 1 and 2)
 - Handle with Care
 - Trauma Informed Care
- All students referred for mental health supports will be monitored and reported to state (number)
- District Procedures for Seamless Communication to appropriate staff
- Mental Health Component for Parent Agency Fair
- Positive Behavior Support
- Now is the Time/Project for Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE)
- It's Your Choice
- BrightBytes (Early Warning System)
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training (train the trainers as needed)
- HERO – mobile app allowing schools to monitor/capture occurrences on campus
- Bullying Prevention Training
- Mentoring
- Sharepoint with staff access to information on Mental Health and Restorative strategies

Tier 2

- CHAMPS/ Discipline at the Secondary Level
- Trauma Informed Care Training
- Ripple Effects
- Teach Town
- Behavior Specialists/Behavior Techs to support students
- Check In-Check Out
- Targeted Group Counseling (Second Step, Skills Streaming, Why Try)
- District Crisis Team

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Tier 3

- Centerstone Mental Health Counseling (1 clinical supervisor, 12 therapists)
- Behavior Specialists/Behavior Techs to support students
- School of Behavioral and Learning Excellence (SABLE) and The School of Therapeutic and Academic Resources (STAR) programs
- District Crisis Team
- Check and Connect

Program Descriptions:

Sandy Hook Promise: The Say Something program teaches students how to look for warning signs, signals and threats, especially in social media, from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others and to Say Something to a trusted adult either in person or via the anonymous reporting system (App, Website or 24/7 Crisis Telephone Line) to get them help. This program will be available to all secondary school students in Manatee County.

Mental Health Clinic: This will consist of a traveling group of counselors who will provide evidence based mental health services for addiction, anger management, behavior problems, anxiety, problem focusing, depression, stress, and trauma to students at all schools. These Mental Health counselors will be contracted from Centerstone 5 days a week and under the direct supervision of Centerstone's School Based Therapy Supervisor. These mental health services will focus on students with one or more co-occurring mental health or substance abuse diagnosis or at high risk of such diagnosis

CHAMPS (K-8)/Discipline at the Secondary Level (9-12): Classroom behavior management techniques that will be implemented in classroom focused on students with behavioral difficulties allowing students to work in a lower stress environment with clear behavioral expectations.

Now is the Time/Project for Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE): The University of South Florida manages three major components of the *Now is the Time Project* for Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education State Educational Agency Program (NITT-AWARE-SEA) program including program evaluation, building capacity for an integrated multi-tiered system of mental health supports and implementation of Youth Mental Health First Aid at the state and local level. The Florida AWARE program supports districts in employing a public health approach to promoting mental wellness and ensuring that when Florida youth do experience mental health problems, they have access to effective and coordinated mental health supports. The program supports the state's effort to scale-up an integrated multi-tiered system of supports to be more inclusive of youth with mental health needs and expand the collaboration of state agencies, district personnel, families, and youth.

It's Your Choice Program: The "it's yoUR choice" Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant is beginning the ninth year of implementation during the 2018-19 school year, annually serving over 3,000 students in higher risk Manatee County zip codes. Thus far, over 25,000 students have been served by this program.

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"it's yoUR choice" provides a continuum of services designed to prevent teen pregnancy and reduce repeat teen births for students attending five traditional middle schools, four traditional high schools, two alternative schools, and the TAPP (Teenage Parenting Program) program. One aspect of this program is counseling to help young girls maintain strong mental health in order to break the cycle of teen pregnancy.

HERO App: Apps for parents and students, which give instant notification of behavior events, opening up lines of conversation between school and home.

Ripple Effects: Personalized technology to address non-academic barriers to school success. Software allows students to work through skills training specialized to their individual social skills/mental health needs.

District Crisis Team: This team consists of School Psychologists and School Social Workers who are dispatched to a school site after a traumatic event has occurred. They are available for counseling for students and staff to assist them in dealing with the event in a healthy manner.

School of Behavioral and Learning Excellence (SABLE) and The School of Therapeutic and Academic Resources (STAR) programs: These programs are specifically designed to education students with diagnosed mental health disorders. PK – 8th grade students can be referred to these programs by schools and/or parents. Students may or may not be identified as students with disabilities. The programs are run by the district's lead behavior specialist and teachers/staff are extensively trained in behavioral techniques for dealing with students in crisis. A contracted psychiatrist works with the program to assist with medication, counseling and streamlining services between the school and community agencies.

Procedures:

Tier 1:

The students of Manatee County schools will be screened for mental health concerns using several different sources of information. The primary screening occurs via the district's Early Warning Software, BrightBytes. BrightBytes monitors 19 early warning signs that students may be at risk of dropping out of school. Many of these signs coincide with early warnings of mental health disorders. BrightBytes is monitored closely at the school level to allow the MTSS team to intervene with Tier 1 supports early when data indicates students may be at risk.

All school staff will be extensively trained through Youth Mental Health First Aid or Kognito to recognize apparent and less obvious signs of mental health disorders/concerns. Additionally, screening occurs in classrooms daily by utilizing the skills learned in the afore mentioned mental health trainings. All school staff will be familiar with the process of referring students demonstrate signs of possible mental health issues to the school counselor for Tier 2 supports. Also, the district's alternative education department is in constant contact with local law enforcement and the Department of Children and Families. Information is shared regarding students that have been involved in the justice system and, via the Handle with Care program, information is shared regarding students that have been removed from their homes by the Department of Children and Families. These students would be referred to the MTSS or ITS team for Tier 2 interventions, as appropriate.

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Finally, the emergency medical contact forms completed by parents at the beginning of each year allows parents to notify school staff annually if they have concerns about their student's mental health. The school nurses follow up directly with parents based upon this information. Utilizing the school's MTSS system and team, these students may also be referred to the IST team for additional/more intense Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions, as appropriate.

Tier 2

Each school will have one designated staff member to monitor students referred for Tier 2 supports. This person (and their team, as needed) will be responsible for monitoring students that are referred in any of the ways described in Tier 1. The ESE Director will maintain a current list of the primary contacts at each school site.

Students referred for Tier 2 supports may receive any interventions indicated in the afore mentioned Tier 2 list. The site-based designee will monitor the implementation of appropriate interventions and work with the school's MTSS team. Based on the student's Tier 2 data the team determines through the problem-solving process if the student needs additional/more intense supports and will refer to the appropriate mental health provider (school psychologist, school social worker, contracted mental health provider) for additional mental health services/treatments as listed in Tier 2 and 3 supports. Students who are referred will be assessed within 15 days of the referral, services will be initiated within 15 days of assessment and services will be initiated within 30 days of the referral. The designee will also maintain a record of all students referred and will communicate with agencies which receive these referrals. The Mental Health counselors are receiving referrals from the school counselor and school nurse. The Mental health counselor should report back to the school counselor or the nurse with updates.

Tier 3

Through the use of the MTSS process, students referred **for Tier 3 services data will be reviewed by the IST team. Based on student's data the IST team will make recommendation for Tier 3 supports that are** aligned with one of the interventions/treatment programs listed above for treatment. The site based staff member at the student's referring school will maintain and document contact with the agency/school providing the services to ensure seamless school supports are provided, as necessary. The Mental Health counselor are receiving referrals from the school counselor and school nurse. The Mental health counselor should report back to the school counselor or the nurse with updates. At the end of the school year, the documentation of students who were assessed/screened, referred for, and/or received services will be provided to the Director of Exceptional Student Education. Through collaboration with Centerstone and school-based counselors, psychologist, and social workers, a comprehensive list of this information will be provided to the Florida Department of Education no later than September 30, 2019

Assurances:

The School District of Manatee County was allocated \$1,282,500 for the provision of mental health services for students. These funds have been allocated as follows:

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| Mental Health/Student Emotional Learning Coordinator | \$88,000 |
| Charter Schools (approximately) | \$209,000 |

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| Centerstone (approximately) | \$985,500 |
| Total | \$1,282,500 |

Utilizing approximately \$985,500 of allocations The School District of Manatee County contracted with Centerstone for 12 Mental Health counselors (registered interns working on their licensures in the state of Florida) to provide direct mental health supports in the schools. These positions are all in addition to services previously provided to students and did not supplant any previous services/personnel. Additionally, \$88,000 of allocations were used to hire a Mental Health/Student Emotional Learning Coordinator to oversee, coordinate, and expand school-based mental health care, train educators and other staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues, and/or connecting children, youth and families with appropriate behavioral health services No funds from the Mental Health Assistance Allocation were used to increase salaries or provide bonuses to current staff members. Beyond the Mental Health Allocation, the School District of Manatee County provides services Bright Bytes, behavior specialists, behavior techs, psychologists, school social workers, certified school guidance counselors, mentors, and the provision of two programs specifically designed for students with diagnosed mental health conditions. In addition, 19 certified school counselor positions were allocated to reduce the staff-to-student ratios, which included the revision of district staffing resource allocation, based on school or student mental health assistance needs. By increasing the number of certified school counselors from 100 to 114, contracting with Centerstone for 12 register Interns, 23 school psychologist licensed under 490 or certified by the DOE and 25 social workers licensed under 491 or certified under DOE the student to staff ration is 252:1 opposed to the previous ration of 280:1. The lowering of student to staff ration allows student services personnel to increase the amount of time in which they can provided direct mental health services to students.

Manatee County has a county specific Community Action Team which is also through Centerstone. The Community Action Team provides services to students of Manatee County Schools beyond the scope of the contract between the School Board and Centerstone for the provision of mental health services