

Washington County School Board Mental Health Allocation Plan in SB 7026

(s.1001.62(16)(a) and (b), F.S.)
2018-2019

Washington County School District will implement Mental Health Services using Multi Tiered Support Systems. In Tier 1, students will participate in prevention and awareness activities in all schools. Depending on age of the students, activities will include social skills lessons, screenings and/or surveys. Faculty and staff training will occur at all schools to increase awareness of mental health concerns and early warning signs. To maintain and encourage positive behaviors and supports WCSD implements the following supports at various levels within the district: School Resource Officer Explorer, Green Dot, AVID, Take Stock in Children. At Tier 2, identified students will participate in small group instruction/support on topics of need with guidance counselors, school psychologist, Certified Behavior Analyst and/or Licensed Mental Health Counselors. Supports will be provided to students in the area of anger management, coping skills, anxiety, self advocacy, de-escalation strategies, grief counseling and etc. In Tier 3, identified students will work one on one with a guidance counselor, school psychologist, Certified Behavior Analyst, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and/or an agency within the multi agency agreement (Big Bend Community Based Care)- typically once a week to provide therapy in specified areas of need. Therapy will vary based on student's need but may include: Cognitive-Behavior Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA), direct instruction for Social Skills, Problem Solving Strategies. Students will receive services to assist in mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. The district will work with any agency already assisting the student and their family with mental and/or substance abuse treatment to provide wrap around care. Students identified as having made a threat to themselves and/or others will work with the district LMHC to identify any barriers and needs in the educational environment. The district will work with families to assist in bridging services between home and school

Training: Tier 1 - all teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, maintenance, food service and office staff will be provided basic skills in: Youth Mental Health First Aid, Trauma Informed Care, Suicide Prevention, Mandatory Reporting, Restorative discipline. Tier 2 training will occur for all school counselors and administrators in the area of Youth Mental Health First Aid. The district will work closely with Big Bend as well as other service providers to assist in communication to provide seamless services to students. Students identified as at risk through district early warning assessments will meet with LMHC, CBA and/or guidance on a regular basis. Tier 3 - the district Threat Assessment team (to include LHMC, Mental Health Coordinator, Director of ESE, School Safety Officer, School Psychologists, CBA, Principal and Guidance Counselor) will participate in continuous training to collaborate with schools in meeting students needs. In addition, the Threat Assessment Team will assist in providing training (either direct or arranging trainers) for faculty and staff.

Students identified with one or more co-occurring mental health or substance abuse diagnosis will be identified based on parent/student disclosure and/or medical information. Students will be monitored through an EWS during Tier 1. If the student's need is more intense and possible services or accommodations are needed the student will be referred to the MTSS team for problem solving and possible evaluation. Eligibility for 504 or IDEA will be determined by a team to include counselors, staff members, the parent and student when appropriate. If a student is hospitalized for mental health or substance abuse, a school based team meets with the parent and student upon reentry to assist in any necessary accommodations or support.

Washington County will employ 2 licensed mental health counselors. In addition, WCSD employees 2 school psychologists who assist in screenings and evaluations, 8 master's level guidance counselors who are home based at each school. The district employs a Certified Behavior Analyst who provides assistance to both students and teachers in Functional Behavior Assessments, Behavior Intervention Plans, Applied Behavior Analysis, classroom management and positive behavior strategies. The district maintains a cooperative agreement with Big Bend Community Services, Anchorage Children's Home and Florida Therapy to provide services to students. These agencies provide services to students on campus as well as in the home and work collaboratively with schools to assist students. In addition, the district contracts with Gaggle for an IT program that filters students email and google documents. In the event a student uses a suicidal, homicidal, sexual or drug term in their documents - as well as attempt to access an inappropriate site with their school email - an email or phone call is made to the district. The information is then forwarded to the school for investigation. The district also maintains an anonymous alert system for anyone to report concerning behaviors to appropriate school staff.

A referral process will be implemented to ensure all students in need will be identified and appropriate follow up will continue. Referrals may be made by school staff, parents, and self requested by students. Washington County will maintain records at each school regarding students who are in Tier 2 and Tier 3. Numbers will be reported to the district each semester.

Washington County will use expenditures to create positions for 2 Licensed Mental Health Counselors. The LMHC will be master's level counselors and will be assigned to schools but will also be expected to work closely with families in both the home and school in order to assist in the provision, diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues. The district will reimburse for Medicaid for these positions - where applicable. In addition, expenditures will be used to create clerical assistance for Guidance Counselors. The clerical assistance will allow the school counselor to spend more time working directly with students.

Mental Health Allocation	\$172,599
2 Licensed Mental Health Counselors (salary and benefits)	\$155,599
Clerical assistance for guidance	\$17,000