

DUE TO MSDE: 8-23-2021

Local School System: Worcester County Public Schools

Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2021 (HB1372) requires local school systems to provide two reports on the System's actions to address trauma/behavioral health issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic through the Implementation of specific Trauma/Behavioral Health Supports for students.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) (1) Each county board of education, including Baltimore City, shall use State and federal funds provided in for COVID-19 relief in the State budget for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 to address trauma and behavioral health issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic on students and their families and to identify and provide necessary supports and services for students.

(2) On or before **September 1, 2021**, each county board of education, including Baltimore City, shall submit to the Accountability and Implementation Board, the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly a plan for spending the fiscal year 2022 funds under paragraph (1) of this subsection, including how the county board will:

(i) provide behavioral health services to students;

(ii) ensure that services provided to students address the trauma and behavioral health issues due to the effects of exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(iii) monitor students experiencing more trauma and behavioral health issues than other students; and

(iv) develop key metrics and procedures, consistent with State and federal guidance, to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of behavioral health services provided to students under this section.

(3) Funding may not be provided to a county board under paragraph (1) of this subsection for fiscal year 2022 until the county board submits a plan in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(b) To the extent practicable, county boards are encouraged to utilize school-based health centers to coordinate and deliver services to students.

(c) Funds may be used under this section to train teachers and school staff to recognize signs of student trauma or behavioral health concerns.

The September 2021 Report template is included in the 9-1-2021 tab. The January Report template is included in the 1-1-2022 Tab.

September 1, 2021 Report Certification

Louis H. Taylor

Superintendent's Name

Superintendent's Signature

8/23/2021

Date

NOTE: For the September 1 Report only, MSDE will transmit the reports to the AIB, the Governor, and the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly.
As such, reports are due to MSDE by August 23, 2021.

LEA: Worcester County Public Schools

Trauma - Behavioral Health Report

The LEA's FY 2022 Trauma/Behavior Health Grant cannot be released until this report is submitted.

Please describe the LEA's plans to address trauma and behavioral health issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic on students and their families and to identify and provide necessary supports and services for students in each of the following sections.

(i) How will the LEA provide behavioral health services to students?

Worcester County Public Schools plans to utilize the Trauma and Mental Health Grant Funds to support a full-time Behavioral Health Consultant at Showell Elementary School. The Behavioral Health Consultant will provide direct services to Tier 2 and Tier 3 students, provide referrals and care coordination with community partners, and provide classroom observation and interventions. Additionally, with FY22 funds, Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) will implement a school-wide mental health initiative, the Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI) program, for Snow Hill Middle School (SHMS) administrators, counselors, teachers, and staff during the 2021-2022 school year. The LSCI initiative is a year-long training that will increase participants' ability to utilize trauma-informed, competent, and social-emotional wellness-focused methods in their interactions with students. The ultimate goal of the LSCI program is to provide knowledge to educators and other school staff that will enable them to feel confident identifying the trauma and behavioral health needs of students and connecting students with behavioral health services when necessary.

(ii) How will the LEA ensure that services provided to students address the trauma and behavioral health issues due to the effects of exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Showell Elementary School is our largest elementary school in the county with a total enrollment of 651 students. Using the funds to support elementary students will allow for earlier intervention and improve long term outcomes. This position will allow for a fulltime Behavioral Health Consultant to provide behavioral health services to students in need; refer students to providers as needed to address the trauma and behavioral health issues; follow up on referrals and outcomes; and monitor students experiencing more trauma and behavioral health issues than other students. Many students were not able to have consistent in-person learning environments during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this additional resource will help to assess and intervene when concerns arise. The LSCI program at SHMS will serve as crucial initiative to identify and provide mental health supports and services for students struggling from a myriad of trauma and behavioral health obstacles caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with the essential need to address academic learning gaps caused by the pandemic, WCPS believes that targeting the mental and behavioral health needs of students is a vital component of recovery.

(iii) How will the LEA monitor students experiencing more trauma and behavioral health issues than other students?

The Behavioral Health Consultant outcomes will be measured through progress follow through on referrals, improvements in classroom behaviors as evidenced on behavior plans, and improvements in scores on the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment for our PK3-Grade 1 students. In support of the above goals, the SHMS Social Worker will track the number of student treatment referrals and will monitor student behavior data. Additionally, all administrators, teachers, and staff participating in the LSCI training will be asked to complete a pre- and post-training questionnaire. Data from the questionnaires will be used to assess the effectiveness of the training and the pilot program. The WCPS Coordinator of School Health Services will oversee the training and will assist with all reporting requirements of the Trauma and Behavioral Health Grant Programs.

(iv) Identify the key metrics the LEA will use to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the behavioral health services provided to students. Please also identify the process used by the LEA to develop key metrics and procedures, consistent with State and federal guidance, to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of behavioral health services provided to students under this section.

Reliable data to promote early childhood social and emotional development can be measured through the use of the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). The DECA is used to elicit feedback from parents and caregivers and provides reliable and valid data to promote social and emotional development. The DECA measures attachment, self-regulation, initiative and behaviors of concern, and is focused on resilience factors. The LSCI training program at SHMS will serve as a pilot program for WCPS. Pending a successful pilot, additional schools within WCPS may implement the program to benefit students during future school years. The goals of the LSCI program are listed below.

1. At least 75% of SHMS staff will be trained and certified by the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
2. The SHMS Social Worker will complete the LSCI Senior Trainer program.
3. The number of SHMS students identified as experiencing behavioral health will increase.
4. The number of students experiencing out-of-school suspensions will decrease.

(v) How does the LEA's FY 2022 spending plan align with the components identified above.

For the FY21 Trauma and Behavioral grant, funds to support the Behavioral Health Consultant will be expended during the 2021-2022 school year. To ensure longevity, funds to support the Behavioral Health Consultant position for future school years have been requested through the recent ARP ESSER III grant submission. The FY22 Trauma and Behavioral Health funds will be expended during the 2021-2022 school year on the LSCI initiative at Snow Hill Middle School to increase trauma-informed educational practices. Should WCPS decide to implement the LSCI program district-wide, funding decisions to support the sustainability of the program will be made appropriately.