



Every Child a Success

W. David Bromwell
Superintendent of Schools

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

700 Glasgow Street
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
410-228-4747 ~ 410-228-1847 Fax
www.dcps.k12.md.us

October 26, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS

Laura H. Layton
President
Sheri R. Hubbard
Vice President
Michael D. Diaz
LeOtha N. Hull
Susan V. Morgan

Ms. Rachel H. Hise
Principal Policy Analyst
The Joint Audit Committee
of the General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
3 West Wing, 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair
Senate Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Dorchester County Public Schools Blueprint for Maryland's Future report that addresses trauma and behavioral issues required by HB 1372/Ch.55(5(a) (4)), 2021 (MSAR 13663).

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is the electronic version of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future report that addresses trauma and behavioral issues for Dorchester County Public Schools. Should you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Mr. Tim Brooke, Comptroller.

Sincerely,



W. David Bromwell, Superintendent

cc: Ms. Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services

DUE TO MSDE: 8-23-2021

Local School System: **DORCHESTER**

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

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.

September 1, 2021 Report Certification

W. David Bromwell

Superintendent's Name



Superintendent's Signature



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: Dorchester

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?

DCPS will provide behavioral health services to students through our tiered MTSS (Multitiered System of Supports) process. Tier I will be implementation of districtwide PBIS (positive behavior intervention and supports) to reinforce behavioral expectations and reinforce positive behavior alternatives. This will also be supported through contracted ACES (adverse childhood experiences) training for staff to integrate into the MTSS and PBIS processes as well as our mindfulness programs. Tier 2 will be the implementation and contracted services for conflict mediation both in the school and community through Midshore mediation and the access to School based social workers at each location. Tier 3 will be the utilization of our therapeutic support programs, School social workers, and mental health community partners.

(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?

DCPS will ensure that services provided to students address the trauma and behavioral health issues due to the effects of exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic through our MTSS process documentation. School mental health providers will add more intensive support documentation in the secure tracking program (Caseworthy) and the Student services Department will review data quarterly with school mental health providers and administrators. Discipline, attendance, grade, and individual goal progress will be monitored for impacted students.

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

DCPS will monitor students experiencing more trauma and behavioral health issues than other students through our MTSS process documentation. School mental health providers will add more intensive support documentation in the secure tracking program (Caseworthy) and the Student services Department will review data quarterly with school mental health providers and administrators.

(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.

DCPS has identified the key metrics for evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the behavioral health services provided to students as: mental health referrals, MTSS progress, attendance, behavior, and academic progress. These identifiers comply with COMAR and state reporting requirements. Additionally successful mediation and intervention will reduce behavioral incidents, school removals, and increase student attendance.

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

The DCPS spending plan alligns with the above components as all funding is obligated specifically to support student behavior and mental health support due to the tramatic impact of COVID 19.