

DUE TO MSDE: 8-23-2021

Local School System: Washington 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

Boyd J. Michael, III

Superintendent's Name



Superintendent's Signature

8/18/21

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: Washington 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?

- Behavioral health services will be provided in person during the 21-22 school year unless the COVID-19 Pandemic requires the LSS to shift to virtual instruction. If this occurs, then these services will continue in the virtual environment. Our new Academy of Blended Learning Education will provide a virtual delivery of behavioral health services to students throughout the 21-22 school year.
- School-based staff (counselors, social workers, and psychologists) will provide behavioral health support to students during the school day throughout the 21-22 school year.
- WCPS has multiple MOUs with community providers to support student access to behavioral health services as well as communication between school staff and outside providers.
- School-based support from outside agencies, at no charge to families, are available to students for behavioral health needs during the school day and after school. This includes substance use counseling.

(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?

- WCPS staff have been and will continued to be offered professional development on topics including trauma informed, equity and other SEL components to utilize in their work with students.
- WCPS school counselors, social workers and/or school psychologists will provide interventions and/or check-ins with students as well as lessons for all students to address trauma and behavioral health issues, including issues that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Student Assistance Program, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, as well as Restorative Practices initiatives and frameworks address behavioral health issues and assist in supporting students.

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

- For students experiencing more trauma and behavioral health issues than other students, WCPS professional mental health staff will monitor and provide follow-up with or collaborate with partner agencies to assist these students in meeting their trauma and behavioral health needs through these referral processes:
 - o Mental Health referrals;
 - o Student Assistance Program referrals;
 - o Self Injury/Suicidal Ideation referrals;
 - o Handle With Care referrals

(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.

- WCPS will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the behavioral health services by analyzing student attendance and behaviors patterns over the course of the school year for those students who access behavioral health services.
- WCPS has an established tracking method for trauma and behavioral health referrals. The Supervisor of School Counseling, the Mental Health Coordinator, and the Director of Student Services, School Counseling, and School Health collaborate on evaluation methods and procedures annually. The evaluation method above will be included as part of the tracking form for students who access behavioral health services. WCPS staff will receive training to report these metric(s) on the tracking forms.

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

- These additional counselor and social worker positions, funded by the Behavioral Health grant, will provide schools who demonstrate the need for additional support for students experiencing trauma and behavioral health issues; however, all schools will be providing these services to students.