

DUE TO MSDE: 8-23-2021

Local School System:

Kent 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:

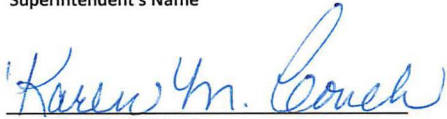
- (a) (1) Each county board of education, including Baltimore City, shall use State and federal funds provided in for COVID–19 relief in the State budget for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 to address trauma and behavioral health issues exacerbated by the COVID–19 pandemic on students and their families and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

Dr. Karen M. Couch

Superintendent's Name



Superintendent's Signature

8/25/2021

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: Kent 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?

KCPS will provide behavioral health services to students through the use of guidance counselors and the social workers. The individuals will meet with students and discuss any behavioral concerns that may have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(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?

Through the funds from this grant, KCPS provided support from a social worker and guidance counselor during summer programming. During these programs, they taught lessons in classrooms using the "Changing Perspectives" curriculum. They were onsite to provide social and emotional support all children as many of them attended in-person learning for the first time in months. Also, through these grants funds, we hope to purchase Second Step Curriculum. Second Step Social Emotional Learning (SEL) gives students the tools to excel in and out of the classroom. Students will learn how to recognize strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts, and they learn to apply strategies for managing their emotions and reducing stress. Teachers use components that support the teacher in building a classroom community and developing students' social and emotional skills and competencies.

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

Guidance counselors and social workers will identify students experiencing more trauma and behavioral health concerns through mental health referrals, needs assessments held by counselors, discipline data, and truancy. Once identified, students will meet regularly with school counselors and social workers in small groups and/or individual sessions to support specific student needs. Based off our mental health referrals, if students need wrap around services, they will be appropriately referred.

(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.

KCPS will collect base line data on mental and behavior health referrals as well as continue to collect and analyze our truancy and discipline data and local care team referrals. KCPS is increasing our partnerships to support Infants and Toddlers, as well as to provide enrolled students with additional wrap around services. KCPS will evaluate our effectiveness through an increase in mental health and local care team referrals because we know we are not reaching all students that have experienced toxic stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the services provided by counselors and social workers during small group and individual sessions through decreased truancy and discipline referrals. KCPS has a commitment to continue to train staff on ACES as well as Behavior Risk Assessment.

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

KCPS will provide Trauma and Behavioral Services during the Summer of Fiscal Year 2023 as stated in the requirements of the supplemental funding. These funds will be used to pay for guidance counselor and social worker that will assist any students who will need the additional support over the summer to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. All other funding will be utilized to assist with social materials and supplies needed for students that will help them cope emotionally with this unforeseen pandemic.