

Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer  
School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF DISTRICTS  
MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION PLAN**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Senate Bill 7026 (Chapter 2018-3, Laws of Florida) comprehensively addresses school safety, in part, through a Mental Health Assistance Allocation and district implementation plan. The Mental Health Assistance Allocation is created to provide funding to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school based mental health care.

Each school district is required to submit a comprehensive plan to their individual school boards for approval then submit the plan to the Commissioner of Education by August 1 of each fiscal year. Beginning September 30, 2019, and annually thereafter, each school district shall submit to the Department of Education a report on its program outcomes and expenditures for the previous fiscal year and must include the following:

- Students who receive screenings or assessments
- Students who are referred for services or assistance
- Students who receive services or assistance
- Direct employment service providers employed by each school district
- Contract-based collaborative efforts or partnerships with community mental health programs, agencies, or providers.

Currently, Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides students with a comprehensive and data rich Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to address the mental health concerns of all students within the District. M-DCPS MTSS ensures successful educational outcomes for all students by using a data based problem, solving process to evaluate the effectiveness of all interventions being provided within each tier.

The Districts Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) is a three-tiered approach that moves through a progression of support to meet the unique academic, behavioral and mental health concerns of all students.

- Tier 1 services and support model provides a school-wide programming that address the universal social/emotional needs for all learners.

- Tier 2 services and support targets interventions for identified students that address specific academic performance, social/emotional development, behavioral issues, as well as mental health concerns.
- Tier 3 services and support provides intensive support that is individually designed to address the specific needs of students with comprehensive Tier 2 support that addresses mental wellness.

To fully implement Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan, the District will establish the Department of Mental Health Services. This department will be responsible for coordinating District and community resources to deliver evidence-based mental health care and treatment for M-DCPS students. Services will include provisions for mental health assessments, diagnosis, intervention, and recovery services.

Allocated funds will further enhance and support the implementation of mental health services, collaboration of services and oversight of these services. External services will be contracted to help develop programs that support efforts to identify, report and prevent bullying; provide sensitivity training in the areas of race, gender, social economic status, linguistic differences, and disability; and promote a culture of respect. Further, an external reviewer will assess the overall implementation of these initiatives.

The plan in its entirety will be provided under separate cover.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the M-DCPS Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan and the submittal to the Florida Department of Education.