



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Physician Resources

Pediatricians, therapists, clinicians, and other medical experts provide vital services to children and youth as they grow and mature. Often these medical professionals see some students who require programs of a special nature or have special needs in their day-to-day lives, including the many hours spent at school. The appropriate placement of these students is critical for academic, athletic, emotional and personal success in school, and while a child may require special services or attention while he or she is in school, medical experts often have no way of advising parents of services that may be available to them through the public school system.

To meet this challenge, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has undertaken an effort to supply medical providers with complete information about programs and services offered by the school district. The district's vast array of services can help a student in many aspects of their life, and many of these school services can work in a complementary or supplementary manner to those offered by a student's medical staff.

Through a school's Student Services department, students may receive counseling and services specially designed for them, including homeless students, children of military personnel, those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning; those in crisis; and those who need career counseling and postsecondary planning. The district's Exceptional Student Education program is recognized as one of the most accomplished programs in the country, providing comprehensive services to students with a wide spectrum of exceptionalities. M-DCPS also offers immunizations, communicable disease screening, including vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings as well as Health Connect through The Children's Trust and six community providers at 140 school sites. The school district also services special communities including those who are pregnant or incarcerated.

Familiarity in the medical community with the services offered by M-DCPS will benefit our students, their families, schools and our community. Please take the time to review the offerings described in the pages that follow. An open line of communication with pediatricians, therapists and others will help ensure that students are receiving appropriate services that match their needs.



Early Childhood

Program	Description	Contact
Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program	M-DCPS offers the VPK Core Instructional Day from 8:20 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. The Prekindergarten Enrichment Program extends the instructional day until 1:50 p.m. through Title I funds or parent fees. Enrollment is based on a maximum class size of 20 students, maintaining a ratio of 1 adult per 10 students at all times. A child must be four years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year. Parents must apply for their child's VPK Program Certificate of Eligibility (COE) at www.vpkhelp.org and submit the form along with all documents required for initial school entry.	Marisol Diaz, Administrative Director Department of Early Childhood Programs (305) 995-7632; Fax (305) 995-7650 earlychildhood@dadeschools.net http://earlychildhood.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Infant and Toddler @ Zelda Glazer	The center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and follows the M-DCPS school calendar. The Creative Curriculum Infant-Toddler researched-based curriculum model is implemented with all age groups. The fee is \$150 per week for Infant/Young Toddler: Younger than 24 months and Older Toddler/Preschooler: 24 months and older.	Dr. Miguel A. Balsera, Principal Miami Arts Studio 6-12 At Zelda Glazer Infant Toddler Program (305) 485-2323; Fax (305) 485-2324 http://zgm.dadeschools.net
Head Start Program	The Head Start Program is federally funded and offers free, comprehensive services to low-income children and their families. The mission of the Head Start Program is to promote school preparation by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services. The Head Start Program serves three and four-year-old preschool children at 34 school locations across Miami-Dade County. Hours of operation are from 8:15 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.	Dr. Maite Riestra-Quintero, Executive Director Department of Early Childhood Programs (305) 995-7632; Fax (305) 995-7650 earlychildhood@dadeschools.net http://headstart.dadeschools.net https://www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Early Head Start Program	The Early Head Start Program is federally funded and offers free, comprehensive services to low-income children and their families. The mission of the Early Head Start Program is to support the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and language development of each child and to foster positive parent-child relationships. The Early Head Start Program serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to age three at six school locations across Miami-Dade County. Hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Dr. Maite Riestra-Quintero, Executive Director Department of Early Childhood Programs (305) 995-7632; Fax (305) 995-7650 earlychildhood@dadeschools.net http://headstart.dadeschools.net https://www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Inclusion Program	Full-day PK SPED program for students with and without disabilities. This program also serves as a VPK provider for the typically developing students who are four years of age on or before September 1st.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms

Reverse Mainstream Program	Full-day PK SPED program for students with various exceptionalities.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Half-Day Reverse Mainstream Program	Half-day PK SPED program for students with various exceptionalities.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Program	Self-contained, full-day PK SPED program for students with autism spectrum disorders.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Learning Experiences: An Alternative Program for Preschoolers and Parents (LEAP)	Half-day PK SPED program for students with autism spectrum disorders and typically developing students.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Intellectual Disabilities (InD) Program	Full-day, multi-grade program for students with intellectual disabilities.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms

Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program	Full-day, multi-grade program for students who are deaf/hard of hearing.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms
Half-Day Speech & Language Program	Half-day PK SPED program for students who have a speech and/or language impairment.	Alex Lopes, Instructional Supervisor Department of Early Childhood Programs Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities (305) 271-5701; Fax (305) 598-5253 alexlopes@dadeschools.net http://prekese.dadeschools.net www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodprograms

Student Services Resources

Program	Description	Contact
Project UPSTART	Project UP-START seeks to ensure a successful educational experience for homeless children and youth in South Florida by collaborating with parents, schools, and the community by opening the doors to academic opportunities, removing barriers, and promoting a healthy sense of self with hope for bright tomorrows.	Debra Albo-Steiger, Coordinator debalbo@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7558
Healthy for Life (HIV/STD Prevention Program)	The M-DCPS HIV/AIDS Education Program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC/DASH). The fundamental mission of the HIV/AIDS Education Program is to decrease HIV/AIDS incidence Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Unintended Pregnancy among youth by fostering a science-based education, adhering to Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT), common core standards and the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards; thus increasing awareness of healthy behaviors and practices that result in healthy adults.	Ashley Miller, Educational Specialist amiller@dadeschools.net (305) 995-1598
Military Child/Family Assistance	The mission of the Military Family Assistance Program is to identify strategies to ease the transitioning of military connected children and remove barriers to educational success for those children. The program also provides support, technical assistance, and professional development to schools to meet the needs of military students and families.	Mia Lafrance, Elementary Counselor miafrance@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7302
Sexual Minority Network	The Sexual Minority Network is a Student Services Initiative with a mission to provide school and District employees with the knowledge necessary to build comprehensive and inclusive programs of support for all students and parents including students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (GLBTQ). All secondary schools have designated liaisons that receive specialized professional development focused on building expertise in program development and delivery of these comprehensive services. Program elements include the provision of individual, group, and family counseling services; community resources information; support group and social networking opportunities; and providing or coordinating anti-bullying prevention and educational activities.	Gladys Duran, Curriculum Support Specialist urang@dadeschools.net (305) 995-1778
College Assistance Program	The College Assistance Program (CAP) is a postsecondary program offered to all high schools in M-DCPS. The focus of the program enables CAP advisors to serve students more effectively because of their specific expertise in this field. CAP advisors communicate on behalf of students as a result of their relationships with college representatives as well as local, state, and national organizations. CAP advisors host college forums / fairs, college visits, provide assistance with financial aid, college applications, college selection,	Sharon Krantz, Executive Director skrantz@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7338

	academic advisement, test preparation, scholarship information, college essays, and support students and their families during all phases of the planning process.	
TRUST	The TRUST (To Reach Ultimate Success Together) Program is a comprehensive student assistance program designed to provide prevention, intervention, referral, and follow-up services to students and their families who may be experiencing mental health issues, substance abuse, and other self-defeating behaviors. The TRUST Specialists assist students with behavior, mental health, and social issues that directly impact learning and development. The TRUST Program focuses on interpersonal relationships, social-emotional skills, schools safety, and substance abuse. These issues interfere with the individual student's success and well-being, as well as, directly impact the school environment and climate.	Gladys Duran, Curriculum Support Specialist durang@dadeschools.net (305) 995-1778
Crisis Management Program	Through training, consultation, and direct services, The Crisis Management Team assists schools in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from critical incidents and disasters.	Frank Zenere, Department Chairperson fzenere@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7319
Values Matter Initiative	A District initiative aimed at teaching and promoting behaviors that are aligned with the District's nine core values. The goal of the Values Matter campaign is to reduce negative behavior and decision making and to create a more positive, connected, and safe school climate.	Sharon Krantz, Executive Director Skrantz@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7338
Success Coaches	Student Success Coaches are assigned to selected Tier 2 and 3 schools to work with at-risk students as identified by the Early Warning System (EWS) report as having 2 or more indicators. The coach is tasked with improving the targeted student population's attendance, behavior, and coursework.	Janat Qureshi, Elementary Counselor Jqureshi@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7338
Elementary Counseling Program Middle/K-8 Counseling Program High School Counseling Program	School Counseling services are provided by school counselors at every school PK-12 and adult/vocational/technical education centers. School counselors assist students in the developmental acquisition of knowledge and skills that will help them reach their academic, personal/social, health and career/community potential. The ultimate goal of the program is for students to graduate with the competencies necessary to be able to make self-directed, realistic, and responsible decisions and to be successful contributors to society. School counselors provide counseling services to individual students and groups of students. They also provide professional support to teachers, parents, and administrators through consultation and collaboration.	Mia Lafrance, Elementary Counselor miafrance@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7302 Sonia O'Farrill, Curriculum Support Specialist sofarrill@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7325 Ana Tigerino, Curriculum Support Specialist atigerino@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7320

Exceptional Student Education

Program	Description	Contact
Exceptional Student Education	Development and administration of curriculum and instruction for students with special needs and/or disabilities, related community service programs, early identification and intervention, psycho-educational evaluation and placement, transition support, compliance and truancy.	Ava Goldman, Administrative Director agoldman@dadeschools.net (305) 995-2037
	ESE Region/School Support, Community Services	Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, District Director khunter@dadeschools.net (305) 995-1733
	Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities and Parental Supports, School Social Work Program	Robin J. Morrison, Executive Director Rmorrison@dadeschools.net (305) 995-7419
	McKay Scholarship Liaison, Extended School Year Program, Charter School Services	Mary Paz, Executive Director mpaz@dadeschools.net (305) 995-2707
	Modified Curriculum Supports, Transition Services and Programs, Students with Intellectual Disabilities and Physical Impairments, Assistive Technology	Jill Brookner, Instructional Supervisor jbrookner@dadeschools.net (786) 268-4757
	Psychological Services, Section 504 Compliance, School Support Team (SST)	Dr. Sue L. Buslinger-Clifford, Instructional Supervisor sclifford@dadeschools.net (305) 995-2735
	ESE/Due Process, Compliance	Fifi Derby, Instructional Supervisor jderby@dadeschools.net (305) 995-2055
	Physical/Occupational Therapy	Guirla Dodard, Instructional Supervisor gdodard@dadeschools.net (786) 268-4757
Standard Curriculum Support, English Language Learners (ELL) Support Services, Private School Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) Inclusion	Dr. Rosalia F. Gallo, Instructional Supervisor Rgallo@dadeschools.net (305) 274-8889	

Specialized Programs and Communication Support for Students with Autism	Angie Torres, Instructional Supervisor angietorres@dadeschools.net (305) 275-9801
Speech and Language Impaired Programs and Thena C. Crowder Early Childhood Diagnostic & Special Education Center	Dr. Ann Marie Sasseville, Instructional Supervisor amsasseville@dadeschools.net (305) 836-0012
Medicaid Reimbursement Programs and Contracted In-School Nursing Services	Claudia Leary, Instructional Support Specialist cleary@dadeschools.net (786) 268-4757 ext. 2109
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System/South (FDLRS)	Delsey Yancoskie, Instructional Support Specialist dyancoskie@dadeschools.net (305) 274-3501
Special Education Outreach Programs	Alberto Fernandez, Principal Afernandez24@dadeschools.net (305) 274-8078
Clinical Program, Hospital/Homebound, Parent Surrogate Program	Dr. Terry Vaccaro, School Psychologist tvaccaro@dadeschools.net (305) 514-5100
ESE Service Center-North	Kate Cadieux, Instructional Supervisor kcadieux@dadeschools.net (305) 827-3025
ESE Service Center-Central	Alfredia Robinson, Instructional Supervisor alfrediarob@dadeschools.net (786) 413-3001
ESE Service Center-South	Kathy Maguire, Instructional Supervisor kmaguire@dadeschools.net (786) 268-4757
ESE Service Center-Charter Schools	Susanne Meadows, Instructional Support Specialist smeadows@dadeschools.net (305) 995-1983

School Operations

Program	Description	Contact
Comprehensive Health Services	Program oversees the following: 1. District immunization compliance, 2. Surveillance and interventions of acute and communicable diseases in students, 3. Chronic disease trainings for school site staff. 4. Implementation of Florida Department of Health in Miami -Dade County School Health policies. 5. Implementation and reporting of mandated health screenings at specific grades including vision, hearing and scoliosis. 6. Implementation and compliance of Health Connect through The Children's Trust and six community providers at 140 school sites. 7. Implementation and compliance of seven yearly committee meetings for the Districts mandated School Health Medical Advisory Committee.	Wilma Steiner RN, BSW, MPH NCSN Director of Comprehensive Health Services wilmasteiner@dadeschools.net (305) 805-4600
School Operations/Special Programs Juvenile Justice Support Office (JJSO)	JJSO is located onsite at the Children's Courthouse. Direct assistance and school District liaison support services are provided to students, families, and agency personnel involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. Services include: identifying, addressing, and supporting student needs; facilitating educational advocacy in Court; consulting and collaborating with DCF workers, case managers, juvenile probation officers, and other agency personnel in addressing educational, personal/social, mental health, and medical needs; conveying critical information from the Court and agency personnel to appropriate school District personnel; and providing assistance, resources, and immediate response to school personnel relating to issues involving these students.	Mark E. Zaher, Director School Operations (305) 805-4600 Sylvia R. Godoy, District Chairperson, JJSO (305) 679-2800 juvenilejusticesupport@dadeschools.net

Title I

Program	Description	Contact
Title I Neighborhood Resource Centers - North and South	Title I Neighborhood Resource Centers (NRC) help build parent, family, school and community partnerships that strengthen parent and child educational and life opportunities.	Bernadette Montgomery District Director bmontgomery@dadeschools.net (305) 995-1202