

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF M-DCPS MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION PLAN

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Currently, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provides students with a comprehensive system of support to address the mental health needs of all students within the District. The District has long prioritized the well-being of the whole child and, as such, has focused on identifying students who may need specific interventions to ensure successful educational outcomes. However, the resources available to support such programs have historically been outpaced by need.

Senate Bill 7026, passed by the 2018 Florida Legislature (Chapter 2018-3, Laws of Florida), comprehensively addresses school safety, in part, through the establishment of a Mental Health Assistance Allocation (MHAA) to provide funding to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care.

In order to access the additional funds available through MHAA, each school district is required to submit a comprehensive plan to their individual school board for approval and to then submit the plan to the Commissioner of Education by August 1 of each fiscal year.

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.

Funds received as part of the MHAA will further enhance and support the delivery and coordination of expanded mental health services, as well as oversight. External providers will be contracted to help design programs to identify, report, and prevent bullying; provide sensitivity training in the areas of race, gender, socioeconomic status, linguistic differences, and disability; and promote a culture of respect. Further, an external evaluator will be identified to assess the overall implementation of these initiatives.

Beginning September 30, 2019, and annually thereafter, each school district shall report on its program outcomes and expenditures to the Commissioner for the previous fiscal year. The report will contain comprehensive information including, but not limited to, the number

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of students who receive screenings or assessments; are referred for services or assistance; receive services or assistance; and the related entities who are providing said services or programs.

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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 its submittal to the Commissioner of Education.