

School Operations

Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer

**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 AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) 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. Section 1011.62 (16) Florida Statutes states that the mental health awareness allocation was created to provide funding to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental healthcare, train educators and school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues and connect children, youth and families who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services.

M-DCPS established the Department of Mental Health Services in July 2018 to further enhance the comprehensive system of support to address the mental health needs of students within the District.

In order to access MHAA funds for the 2020-2021 school year, each school district is again 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.

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

Furthermore, the department will continue to identify and incorporate strategies and programs to enhance the early identification of social, emotional or behavioral problems or substance abuse disorder and provide early intervention to assist students in dealing with trauma and violence.

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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.