

Ms. Monica Colucci, Board Member

**SUBJECT: MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS) FOR MENTAL HEALTH TIER II AND III STUDENTS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Department of Mental Health Services includes in their mission statement that; “Our Mission is to promote students’ social-emotional and academic well-being through the provision of the highest quality, comprehensive, and evidence-based mental health services at school and in our community.” The District, in its unyielding pursuit to support student mental health, has contracted with a myriad of mental health agencies to support school-site student mental health services.

M-DCPS works in collaboration with agencies, partners, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure that the appropriate implementation of services is provided and tailored using the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) based on the severity of needs. Many states and school districts are adopting a MTSS as their framework for supporting students’ mental health. MTSS is a collaborative, evidence-based approach to differentiating and personalizing instruction and intervention for all students. MTSS allows schools/districts to prioritize resources matched to student needs.

Tiers are identified and divided to ensure comprehensive school mental health programs and interventions provide a full range of support. MTSS Tier I (Universal/Prevention) services are mental health awareness, preventative interventions, and activities available, are provided to all students, and support positive mental wellness. Tier I services on average make up approximately 80% of the student population.

MTSS Tier II (Supplemental/At-Risk) targeted services are provided to students that are identified as “at-risk” and require early intervention to deescalate presenting problems. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Tier II services on average make up less than 15% of the student population.

MTSS Tier III (Individualized/Intensive) services are provided to students identified at elevated risk who already display some indication or reported mental health concerns. Tier III can be comprised of 5% of the student population. Tiered services include individual counseling, referrals, and consistent collaboration with outside providers.

Tier III intervention plans require close attention to outcome data and fidelity data. Within Tier III, there are sometimes multiple data points considered. Mental health professionals should define within Tier III Intervention Plans the measurement tool and frequency at which student outcome data will be collected.

On May 5, 2023, staff follow-up from the Superintendent to Board Item H-3, Comprehensive Analysis of Student Mental Health Data (Revised 3), proffered by School Board Member Monica Colucci, was transmitted to the Board in the form of a slide presentation. On page twenty-three (23) of the Superintendent's staff follow-up, titled Mental Health Services – Looking Ahead, it states, “with the recent acquisition of the vendor platform to support the district's threat assessment process, staff is working with the vendor to incorporate an enhanced tracking system through which mental health professionals will have a comprehensive system to maintain student records including referrals, and services.”

The purpose of this item is to request that the Superintendent review, evaluate, and provide an update with regard to the capability of the aforementioned vendor platform to support the district's efforts in collaborating with the vendor to incorporate an enhanced tracking system through which mental health professionals will have a comprehensive system to maintain student records including referrals, services, with a focus on Tier II and III students.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MONICA COLUCCI:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Consistent with the provisions of any existing contract between the District and its existing vendor: review, evaluate, and provide an update of the capability of the vendor platform to support the district's efforts in collaborating with the vendor to incorporate an enhanced tracking system through which mental health professionals will have a comprehensive system to maintain student records including referrals and services with a focus on Tier II and III students; and
2. Present the results of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the vendor platform at the January 10, 2024 and June 11, 2024 Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee meetings.