

Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH DATA

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

During the 2018 session of the Florida Legislature, considerable attention was given to student safety and mental health because of the February 14, 2018, school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Details surrounding the school shooting brought to light the significant mental health history of the perpetrator, thus creating a sense of urgency about reinforcing the structural and physical safety of school buildings while also providing needed mental health supports for students.

In 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed additional legislation that impacts mental health services provided to students. House Bill 899 (2022) Mental Health of Students, revises data that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is required to analyze when creating its annual report on initiation of involuntary examinations.

HB 899 defines elements that must be included in how money is allocated, including encouraging the district to maximize third-party health insurance benefits and Medicaid claiming for services. It further requires the use of a multi-tiered system of support to deliver evidence-based mental health care and service, including direct employment of school-based mental health service providers.

House Bill 1421 (2022) School Safety legislation impacts the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Mental Health Plan by continuing to require professional development opportunities to school district employees including certifying to the state that at least 80% of school personnel in elementary, middle, and senior high schools have been trained in youth mental health awareness. This legislation also requires the district to adopt and adhere to the same suicide screening instrument and that the instrument is approved pursuant to F.S. 1012.583.

House Bill 1557 (2022) Parental Rights in Education requires confidentiality and parent notification of critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical well-being. The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) requires that all school district mental health plans provide mental health assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery services to students with one or more mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses.

The legislation governing the use of the Mental Health Assistance Allocation authorizes the district to refer certain students for mental health services. Students who must be referred for mental health services include:

- Students who are chronically violent or disruptive,
- Students expelled due to possession of a firearm, and
- Students who have made threats against the school.

M-DCPS continues to demonstrate its commitment to meeting the requirements of the Mental Health Assistance Allocation through the provision of the following metrics that are submitted annually. The report includes:

- students who receive screenings or assessments,
- students who are referred to either school-based or community-based providers for services or assistance,
- students who receive either school-based or community-based interventions, services, or assistance,
- school-based and community-based mental health providers, including licensure type, paid for from funds provided through the allocation,
- contract-based collaborative efforts or partnerships with community mental health programs, agencies, or providers.
- At the School Board meeting of March 15, 2023, Vice Chair Monica Colucci proffered Board Item H-3 (Revised3), Comprehensive Analysis of Student Mental Health Data. The item directed the Superintendent to review and evaluate the measurable quantitative and qualitative effectiveness of mental health services provided through the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) mental health services program to students.

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On May 5, 2023, the Board was provided with a Staff Follow-Up to Item H-3, Comprehensive Analysis of Student Mental Health Data, which included a comprehensive analysis of M-DCPS student mental health data. This item requests that the Superintendent provide a comprehensive analysis and comparison between the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 student mental health data.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel 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. provide a comprehensive analysis and comparison between the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 student mental health data.; and
2. Present the results at the September 4, 2024, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee meeting.