



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org



# 2022-23 Mental Health Application

## Part I: Youth Mental Health Awareness Training Plan

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## Introduction

The purpose of the combined mental health application is to streamline and merge two programs into one application. The Youth Mental Health Awareness Training (YMHAT) Plan and the Mental Health Assistance Allocation (MHAA) Plan are to provide supplemental funding to districts so schools can establish, expand and/or improve mental health care, awareness and training and offer a continuum of services. These allocations are appropriated annually to serve students and families through resources designed to foster quality mentalhealth. This application is separated into two primary sections: Part II includes the YMHAT Plan and Part III includes the MHAA Plan.

### Part I. Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan

In accordance with s. 1011.62, F.S., the MHAA Plan allocation is to assist districts with establishing or expanding school-based mental health care; training educators and other school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues; and connecting children, youth and families who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services.

### Submission Process and Deadline

The application must be submitted to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) by August 1, 2022.

There are two submission options for charter schools (MHAA Plan Only):

- Option 1: District submission includes charter schools in their application.
- Option 2: Charter school(s) submit a separate application from the district.

## Part I: Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan

s. 1011.62, F.S.

### MHAA Plan Assurances

#### The Charter School Assurances

One hundred percent of the state funded proportionate share is used to expand school-based mental health care; train educators and other school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues; and connect children, youth and families with appropriate behavioral health services.

Yes

Mental health assistance allocation funds do not supplant other funding sources or increase salaries or provide staff bonuses or incentives.

Yes

Maximizing the use of other sources of funding to provide school-based mental health services (e.g., Medicaid reimbursement, third-party payments and grants).

Yes

Collaboration with FDOE to disseminate mental health information and resources to students and families.

Yes

Includes a system for tracking the number of students at high risk for mental health or co-occurring substance use disorders who received mental health screenings or assessments; the number of students referred to school-based mental health services providers; the number of students referred to community-based mental health services providers; the number of students who received school-based interventions, services or assistance; and the number of students who received community-based interventions, services or assistance.

Yes

#### A Charter school board policy or procedures has been established for

Students referred to a school-based or community-based mental health services provider, for mental health screening for the identification of mental health concerns and students at risk for mental health disorders are assessed within 15 calendar days of referral.

Yes

School-based mental health services are initiated within 15 calendar days of identification and assessment.

Yes

Community-based mental health services are initiated within 30 calendar days of referral.

Yes

Individuals living in a household with a student receiving services are provided information about behavioral health services through other delivery systems or payors for which such individuals may qualify if such services appear to be needed or enhancements in those individuals' behavioral health would contribute to the improved well-being of the student.

Yes

District schools and local mobile response teams use the same suicide screening instrument approved by FDOE pursuant to s. 1012.583, F.S., and Rule 6A-40010, Florida Administrative Code.

Yes

Assisting a mental health services provider or a behavioral health provider as described in s. 1011.62, F.S., respectively, or a school resource officer or school safety officer who has completed mental health crisis intervention training in attempting to verbally de-escalate a student's crisis situation before initiating an involuntary examination pursuant to s. 394.463, F.S. Such procedures must include strategies to de-escalate a crisis situation for a student with a developmental disability as that term is defined in s. 393.063, F.S.

Yes

The requirement that in a student crisis situation, the school or law enforcement personnel must make a reasonable attempt to contact a mental health professional who may initiate an involuntary examination pursuant to s. 394.463, F.S., unless the child poses an imminent danger to self or others before initiating an involuntary examination pursuant to s. 394.463, F.S. Such contact may be in person or using telehealth, as defined in s. 456.47, F.S. The mental health professional may be available to the school district either by contracts or interagency agreements with the managing entity, one or more local community behavioral health providers, or the local mobile response team, or be a direct or contracted school district employee. Note: All initiated involuntary examinations located on school grounds, on school transportation or at a school sponsored activity must be documented in the Involuntary Examinations and Restraint and Seclusion (IERS) platform.

Yes

Parents of students receiving services are provided information about other behavioral health services available through the student's school or local community-based behavioral health service providers. Schools may meet this requirement by providing information about and internet addresses for web-based directories or guides for local behavioral health services.

Yes

## Planned Outcomes

**Identify two specific and measurable goals that will be accomplished within the 2022-23 school year, and specify which component of Charter Assurance 1.a. directs that goal (refer to the Guidance Tab if needed).**

The increased availability of providers, combined with professional learning opportunities, will lead to 100 % of students with serious mental health concerns [identified by the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS) as “high-risk self-harm or suicidal ideation” as well as students who have made “Serious” and “Very Serious Substantive” threats], receiving documented intervention through a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) as measured by a district fidelity tool by June 2023.

Provide Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS), an evidenced based professional learning framework, for all School Psychologists with a 100% participation rate to increase a comprehensive, evidence based, mental health support system during the 2022/2023 school year. A pre- and post-assessment of learning will be used to guide on-going professional development.

90% of all faculty and staff fully trained in the Youth Mental Health First Aid.

## Charter Program Implementation

<b>Evidence-Based Program</b>	Assertive Community Treatment
<b>Tiers of Implementation</b>	Tier 1, Tier 2
Describe the key EBP components that will be implemented as well as any related activities, curricula, programs, services, policies and strategies.	
Social Skills Education Goal Setting and Monitoring Client Centered Therapy	
Explain how your district will implement evidence-based mental health services for students to improve the early identification of social, emotional, behavioral problems or substance use disorders, as well as the likelihood of at-risk students developing social, emotional, behavioral problems, depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal tendencies, and how these will assist students dealing with trauma and violence.	
<p>Social Skills Education:</p> Advisory Career Pathways including My Career Shines Meyers Briggs MBTI Survey Counselor led Character Ed Program LMHC Licensed Mental Health Counselor Sessions <p>Goal Setting and Monitoring:</p> Advisory Sessions in large and small groups Individual planning sessions Goal setting and Interest Inventories Counseling On site high school registrations <p>Client Centered Therapy:</p> Individual sessions with LMH Counselors Small group counseling with LMH Counselors <p>Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences contracts with Licensed Mental Health Counselors to provide 50 minute, weekly sessions, during the school day, on site. Some services are provided after hours, if requested by families. The services are paid for using the mental health allocation. Our LMHC providers follow the Blue Menu of Evidence-Based Psychosocial Interventions for Youth.</p> <p>Mental health screenings and assessments will take place when there is a report of self-injury, suicidal ideation, and threat assessments. Other scenarios include students who are at risk of harming others, experiencing severe anger, hallucinating, and/or having a mental breakdown. Once a student of concern is identified, the school counselor screens the student by using the "assessment worksheet." A parent is immediately contacted and a 'duty to inform' letter is completed with specific details of the incident and sent to the parent/guardian. If the scenario is considered "low risk," a safety plan is completed with the student and counselor. If the scenario is moderate to high risk, the gatekeeper brings in the school resource officer. The police officer will determine whether the student needs to be placed under the Baker Act. If the student is placed under the Baker Act, the parent/guardian is notified of the events after the police assessment and determination.</p> <p>In compliance with the Margorie Stoneham Douglas High School Public Safety Act, SSA+S has created a</p>	

threat assessment team that will employ evaluations, assessments, and treatment for students that may be at risk or pose a threat to others. Individualized intervention, as part of the mental health treatment plan, created by the LCSW will be employed following an evaluation within 24 hours of the threat. If the evaluation does not occur the day of the possible threat report, the student will be removed from the school until the evaluation takes place, within the 24-hour deadline. Law enforcement will be contacted, as appropriate.

The mental health evaluation and treatment plan will be sent to the student's primary care provider as well as their mental health provider if they have one.

If the student does not have a mental health provider, counseling services, as outlined in the mental health treatment plan, will be provided, at the school, with no cost for the family, and contracted through our LCSW (licensed clinical social worker) or LMHC (licensed mental health counselor).

Explain how the supports will deliver evidence-based mental health care assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery services to students with one or more mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses and to students at high risk of such diagnoses.

- Participates in functional behavior and academic assessments to customize individual plans for students' interfering behaviors and development of appropriate behaviors and academic skills.
- Assists school teams in selecting evidence-based interventions that align to the intensive needs of specific students.
- Examines the systems that influence the development of individual students to support better alignment with student development and needs.
- Provides individualized counseling and therapy for students with intensive mental health needs.
- Collaborates with parents and school teams as part of the frequent review and interpretation of Tier 3 data to determine whether a student should be referred for a comprehensive evaluation.
- Conduct threat assessments and suicidal ideation/self-harm assessments, referrals for community services and resources

## Direct Employment

### MHAA Plan Direct Employment

#### School Counselor

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2022*

**1:377**

*2022-2023 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2023*

**1:377**

#### School Social Worker

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2022*

**0**

*2022-2023 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2023*

**0**

#### School Psychologist

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2022*

**1:750**

*2022-2023 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2023*

**1:750**

#### **Other Licensed Mental Health Provider**

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2022*

**1:250**

*2022-2023 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2023*

**1:187**

### **Direct employment policy, roles and responsibilities**

**Explain how direct employment of school-based mental health services providers (school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors and other licensed mental health professionals) will reduce staff-to-student ratios.**

Direct employment of school-based mental health providers allows our school to now provide mental health services and counseling to many more students, while reducing the actual ration of student to mental health provider/ expert to 1:93. Before the mental health allocation and plan requirements (prior to 18/19) our mental health provider to student ratio was 1:377.

**Describe your school's established policies and procedures to increase the amount of time student services personnel spend providing direct mental health services (e.g., review and revision of staffing allocations based on school or student mental health assistance needs).**

Our LMHCs and School Psychologist spend 100% of their allocated time providing direct services. Our school counselors spend 75% of their time on direct services.

**Describe the role of school based mental health providers and community-based partners in the implementation of your evidence-based mental health program.**

SSA+S takes pride in their progressive character education program. We utilize the following community providers:

- ALSO Youth for Bully Prevention
- Child Protection Center for Internet Safety
- Selah Freedom for Human Trafficking and Child Sex Trafficking Training (for staff and students)
- MADD for Alcohol Awareness
- SPARCC Spousal Abuse and Rape Crisis Center for Health Relationships
- First Step for Tobacco and Drug Awareness
- Sarasota County Department of Health for Sex Education, AIDS and STI Education, and Human Reproduction

### **Community Contracts/Interagency Agreements**

**List the contracts or interagency agreements with local behavioral health providers or Community Action Team (CAT) services and specify the type of behavioral health services being provided on or off the school campus.**

SC Sheriff Deputy SRO, Licensed Law Enforcement Sarasota County Sheriff's Department School Resource Officer – direct and indirect services Mental Health Allocation & Safe Schools Allocation

Bradley Dorrill, LMHC Contract individual counseling LMH Counselor – direct services Mental Health Allocation



Megan Silvestri, LMHC Individual and group counseling LMH Counselor – direct services Mental Health Allocation

Dr. Tara Files-Hall, School Psychologist Evaluations School Psychologist – direct services Mental Health Allocation

## MHAA Planned Funds and Expenditures

### Allocation Funding Summary

#### MHAA funds provided in the 2022-2023 Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)

\$ 34,667.00

#### Unexpended MHAA funds from previous fiscal years as stated in your 2021-2022 MHAA Plan

\$ 0.00

#### Grand Total MHAA Funds

\$ 34,667.00

### MHAA planned Funds and Expenditures Form

Please complete the MHAA planned Funds and Expenditures Form to verify the use of funds in accordance with (s.) 1011.62 Florida Statutes.

The allocated funds may not supplant funds that are provided for this purpose from other operating funds and may not be used to increase salaries or provide bonuses. School districts are encouraged to maximize third-party health insurance benefits and Medicaid claiming for services, where appropriate.

The following documents were submitted as evidence for this section:

MHAA_Planned_Expenditures.docx
<i>MHAA Planned Expenditures</i>
<a href="#">Document Link</a>

## Charter Governing Board Approval

This application certifies that the **Sarasota County Schools** governing board has approved the Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan, which outlines the local program and planned expenditures to establish or expand school-based mental health care consistent with the statutory requirements for the mental health assistance allocation in accordance with section 1011.62(14), F.S.

### Governing Board Approval date

Thursday 6/23/2022