



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org



# 2023-24 Mental Health Application

## Part I: Youth Mental Health Awareness Training Plan

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## Introduction

### Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan

s. 1006.041, F.S.

#### MHAA Plan Assurances

##### The Charter School Assures

One hundred percent of state funds are used to establish or 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

Other sources of funding will be maximized-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

A system is included 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

Yes

Curriculum and materials purchased using MHAA funds have received a thorough review and all content is in compliance with State Board of Education Rules and Florida Statutes.

Yes

##### A charter governing board policy or procedure 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-4.0010, F.A.C.

Yes

Assisting a mental health services provider or a behavioral health provider as described ins. 1006.041, 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 ins. 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 ins. 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, 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

The Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan must be focused on a multitiered system of supports to 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. s. 1006.041, F.S.

Yes

## District Program Implementation

<b>Evidence-Based Program</b>	MTSS Framework
<b>Tier(s) of Implementation</b>	Tier 1, Tier 2
Describe the key EBP components that will be implemented.	
<p>The RTI/MTSS model is a multi-tiered approach of providing high quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs. Key components include multiple tiers of evidence-based instruction service delivery, a problem-solving method designed to inform the development of interventions, an integrated data collection/assessment system to inform decisions at each tier of service delivery. The types of school-based mental health services available are the immediate services of school staff through the school's culture system.</p> <p>School Social Worker: There is a full time social worker on staff who can coordinate services, interventions and provide direct individual or group counseling. School social workers will also aid in ensuring students with IEP counseling mandates are met and provided accordingly.</p> <p>Community Partners: PsychSolutions is an outside agency which is located within the school and school day. For formal therapeutic interventions, we will refer families directly to PsychSolutions.</p>	
Explain how your district will implement evidence-based mental health services for students to improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders, as well as the likelihood of at risk students developing social emotional or behavioral problems, depression, anxiety disorders or suicidal tendencies, and how these will assist students dealing with trauma and violence.	
Each school will use the RTI/MTSS framework, as a system of service delivery that uses evidence-based instruction and interventions, progress monitoring, and evaluation to make informed decisions about the student's educational and behavioral programming needs. In order to be in compliance with MDCPS, the schools are dedicated to meeting the requirements of the RTI/MTSS Framework and the MTSS Task Force oversee that the procedures are done with fidelity.	
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.	
<p>Tier 1 services and support in the school consists of strong school-wide behavior management systems, ongoing teacher professional development and coaching on establishing positive classroom culture and best practices. Part of developing this is rooting messages directly aligned with positive charter values and providing positive rewards as well as regular communication with families. We directly teach character education and regularly reinforce and teach values during school-wide morning rituals. Additionally our younger students participate in morning circles and closing circles where they reflect and share how they feel, successes they have experienced or challenges they are facing. Our older students engage in similar conversations through their daily "advisory" period.</p> <p>Tier 2 services and supports provides targeted interventions for identified students which are struggling with social/ emotional development, behavior or academics. We implement restorative justice practices, check-in/check-out processes and individualized goals. Our social worker will also offer group or individual counseling or initiate the referral process to our licensed mental health partner through PsychSolutions. We will collect data pre and post the referral process.</p>	

Tier 3 services and support will convene the student support team to review data collected during tier 2020-21 Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan interventions. These meetings will happen in partnership with contracted school psychologists, staffing specialists and family to determine the best services to support the student.

The services could include things like the creation of a behavior intervention plan, initiate a functional assessment of behavior and the creation of additional mental health plans and services. Additionally, the Crisis Team would be required to meet for consultation immediately following a crisis episode. This Crisis Team can also meet upon return to school for a post crisis student support plan

<b>Evidence-Based Program</b>	At-Risk Behavior Prevention
<b>Tier(s) of Implementation</b>	Tier 1, Tier 2
Describe the key EBP components that will be implemented.	
<p>All of our students engage in character and value driven education. Through this we work to instill a sense of community, pride and positivity. For our younger students they will participate in daily morning and closing circles which allows them to reflect and share out feelings and reflections. We also utilize the Second Step curriculum to help guide these conversations along with Social, Emotional, Learning groups facilitated by our school social workers. Our older students will participate in daily advisory periods which will allow them to share feelings and reflections as well as deliver direct programs which teach and discuss mental health in addition to our character education. Through our advisory period and reflective circles we have the ability to identify individuals based on behavior or conversations that arise. Additionally we will have collected information through our social worker led screenings, records review, and ongoing referral process.</p>	
<p>Explain how your district will implement evidence-based mental health services for students to improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders, as well as the likelihood of at risk students developing social emotional or behavioral problems, depression, anxiety disorders or suicidal tendencies, and how these will assist students dealing with trauma and violence.</p>	
<p>The Mental Health Assessment process is examined under the following characteristics: Appearance and behavior, speech, mood, affect, thought, perception, and cognition. The social worker will review any referral forms and will meet with the student and evaluate their current state. To ensure compliance, the social worker will document the information in the school's behavior management and referral system (Dean's List) and notify administration.</p> <p>Substance Abuse: Poor impulse control, aggressiveness, anxiety, depression, rebelliousness, early substance use, antisocial behavior, associating with drug-using peers.</p> <p>Mental Health Issues: Student talks about suicidal ideation, feeling hopeless, loss of interest, mood changes, physical symptoms, physical harm to themselves or others or known exposure to trauma.</p> <p>Co-occurring substance abuse diagnosis: If the student has co-occurring substance abuse diagnosis, school personnel should notify the Department of Children and Families, MDCPS School Police, and the MDCPS Crisis Center.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>If a student engages in repetitive unsafe behaviors or has experienced/expressed suicidal ideations, the school social worker should conduct immediate follow up with that student and family to ensure the appropriate interventions (Tiers 1-3) are put in place to monitor safety, encourage social, emotional wellness, and provide tools and techniques that can effectively replace the choice to engage in unsafe behaviors with stronger coping skills and self-regulation.</p> <p>The school social worker should formally meet with the student and later the family to determine the best</p>	

intervention plan for that student. This plan should also include appropriate collaboration with other teammates at the school level such as, but not limited to; homeroom teachers, exceptional student education teachers, assistant principals/school leaders and any outside mental health agency that may already be working with the student and family. The intervention plan should be formalized and provided to all relative stakeholders.

Additionally, the intervention plan should be filed in the student's cumulative file to ensure record of the school based interventions implemented while also tracking efficacy of such intervention(s).

When students and families are not in an immediate crisis, school staff should utilize the following system for in school and outside agency referrals:

- School staff should utilize the Social Work Referral in Dean's List to refer a student to the school social worker.
- The school social worker will respond to referral within a 24-48hr window.
- If the referral is urgent, reach out to the school social worker directly.
- The referral will remain open in Dean's List until the school social worker submits a final outcome/intervention for the student.

The school social worker will determine next steps for the student/family based on referral information and follow up. If the student/family would benefit from and are open to an outside Tier 2 or Tier 3 referral to PsychSolutions Inc. then the school social worker will make a referral to an outside agency utilizing PsychSolutions's referral form. Once the referral and intake for student/family is completed the school social worker should monitor services and assist with on-campus service implementation.

<b>Evidence-Based Program</b>	Evidence Based Mental Health Assessment
<b>Tier(s) of Implementation</b>	Tier 1, Tier 2
Describe the key EBP components that will be implemented.	
This is a component of the MTSS framework listed above	
Explain how your district will implement evidence-based mental health services for students to improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders, as well as the likelihood of at risk students developing social emotional or behavioral problems, depression, anxiety disorders or suicidal tendencies, and how these will assist students dealing with trauma and violence.	
This is a component of the MTSS framework listed above	
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.	
This is a component of the MTSS framework listed above	



<b>Evidence-Based Program</b>	Trauma Informed Care
<b>Tier(s) of Implementation</b>	Tier 2, Tier 3
Describe the key EBP components that will be implemented.	
<p>School teachers will be trained by school social workers in trauma-informed care, best practices in student engagement and de-escalation techniques. This will create a preventive, proactive climate at the school level where those who are working with our students can identify triggers, behavior patterns, and make referrals as necessary to their school social workers for further assessment and support. Social workers will also initiate a trauma screening at the beginning of the school year to identify individuals who may benefit from school based intervention techniques or external mental health support from our PsychSolutions provider. Additionally, through regular family communication and regular debrief of student caseloads and presenting needs, we will be able to identify students who have had these experiences and pose a risk for at-risk behaviors. Our social worker will gather the appropriate information and make the appropriate referral to PsychSolutions therapist.</p>	
<p>Explain how your district will implement evidence-based mental health services for students to improve the early identification of social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use disorders, as well as the likelihood of at risk students developing social emotional or behavioral problems, depression, anxiety disorders or suicidal tendencies, and how these will assist students dealing with trauma and violence.</p>	
<p>The selection process for determining which outside agency was based on recommendations from MDCPS partner agencies. Additionally PsychSolutions was selected for their experience in trauma work and willingness to provide on-site support. The agency provides the following mental health services including: child &amp; family services, outpatient mental health services, psychosocial rehabilitation group, and cognitive-behavior therapy.</p> <p>The process for referral and follow up include a copy of the Mutual Exchange of Consent form. Once the social worker receives this form, they will maintain open communication about the interventions the school can have to accommodate the needs of the student.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Our partnership agreement with PsychSolutions is that individual, crisis, trauma and group counseling will occur on campus as the counselors will be based at each campus. The service provider will be provided an individual office space to conduct individual sessions with students</p>	

## Direct Employment

### MHAA Plan Direct Employment

#### School Counselor

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2023*

**1:296.75**

*2023-2024 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2024*

**1:259.1**

### **School Social Worker**

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2023*

**1:296.75**

*2023-2024 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2024*

**1:259.1**

### **School Psychologist**

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2023*

*2023-2024 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2024*

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

*Current Ratio as of August 1, 2023*

*2023-2024 proposed Ratio by June 30, 2024*

## **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.**

We plan to hire 1 full time Director of Student Experience, 2 full time social workers and 2 full time Student Support Counselors.

The Director of Student Experience trainer on staff to facilitate Youth Mental Health Training to all of our teachers to ensure that they are trained and in compliance. Additionally they will train our staff in CPI so that those interventions can be utilized during student crisis.

Social workers will provide mental health screenings proactively for all new students at the beginning of the school and will determine needs resulting from those screenings. They will proactively review student records for any new students. Additionally they will connect and re-evaluate students who received services last school year and over the summer. They will proactively re-evaluate the students whose families were identified as “high-risk” last year (families who were displaced, lost employment, lost family members to death and illness, and were referred to community resources for support). Lastly school staff will be trained over the summer on the process to identify and refer a student throughout the school year if a student discloses feelings, situations of concern or exhibits any behaviors of concern directly to the social worker.

The Student Support Counselor plays a central role in maintaining a calm and positive school culture by supporting the social-emotional development of all students. The Student Support Counselor will primarily work with students, families and staff to provide necessary case management and tier 1 mental health services, within the school environment. The Student Support Counselor will assess needs of the student population and triage incoming requests for services.

Additionally, the school based social worker will be responsible for setting social emotional goals and will develop differentiated plans for supporting the students in meeting these goals. They will create a schedule for meeting with RTI tier 1 students in individual and group sessions to provide supportive therapy, monitor and share out student progress.

The Student Support Counselor will also ensure that we are in compliance regarding RTI by making referrals to the School Social Worker and/or RTI Coordinator. The caseload of the Student Support Counselor’s caseload will be composed of general education students.

Approximately 70% of time will be dedicated to case management and crisis management, while approximately 30% of the time will be dedicated to providing clinical services.

Student Support Counselors will be coached directly by the School Leader and/or Assistant Principal of Culture. The Student Support Counselor will receive professional development from the Director of Student Experience and/or clinical supervisor to set and achieve weekly self-selected “micro-goals” for professional growth. To support them in their work, they will have summer professional development and ongoing PD.

**Describe your district'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).**

Each school will use the RTI/MTSS framework, as a system of service delivery that uses evidence-based instruction and interventions, progress monitoring, and evaluation to make informed decisions about the student's educational and behavioral programming needs. In order to be in compliance with MDCPS, the schools are dedicated to meeting the requirements of the RTI/MTSS Framework and the MTSS Task Force oversee that the procedures are done with fidelity.

The RTI/MTSS model is a multi-tiered approach of providing high quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs. Key components include multiple tiers of evidence-based instruction service delivery, a problem-solving method designed to inform the development of interventions, an integrated data collection/assessment system to inform decisions at each tier of service delivery. The types of school-based mental health services available are the immediate services of school staff through the school's culture system. There is a full time social worker on staff who can coordinate services, interventions and provide direct individual or group counseling. School social workers will also aid in ensuring students with IEP counseling mandates are met and provided accordingly.

Tier 1 services and support in the school consists of strong school-wide behavior management systems, ongoing teacher professional development and coaching on establishing positive classroom culture and best practices. Part of developing this is rooting messages directly aligned with positive charter values and providing positive rewards as well as regular communication with families. We directly teach character education and regularly reinforce and teach values during school-wide morning rituals. Additionally our younger students participate in morning circles and closing circles where they reflect and share how they feel, successes they have experienced or challenges they are facing. Our older students engage in similar conversations through their daily “advisory” period.

Tier 2 services and supports provides targeted interventions for identified students which are struggling with social/ emotional development, behavior or academics. We implement restorative justice practices, check-in/check-out processes and individualized goals. Our social worker will also offer group or individual counseling or initiate the referral process to our licensed mental health partner through PsychSolutions. We will collect data pre and post the referral process.

Tier 3 services and support will convene the student support team to review data collected during tier 2022-23 Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan interventions. These meetings will happen in partnership with contracted school psychologists, staffing specialists and family to determine the best services to support the student.

The services could include things like the creation of a behavior intervention plan, initiate a functional assessment of behavior and the creation of additional mental health plans and services.

Additionally, the Crisis Team would be required to meet for consultation immediately following a crisis episode. This Crisis Team can also meet upon return to school for a post crisis student support plan.

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

School staff will record all behaviors in the school's behavior management system and referral system (Dean's List). All communications with families will be recorded in the communications log (also within Dean's List). A Social Worker will meet with the student begin providing services. If necessary, the Social Worker may determine that a referral to an outside agency is necessary to provide continued intensive mental health services to compliment the school based interventions set by the social work team during the RTI/ MSST process. Once a referral has been completed with PsychSolutions, (our outside agency partner) the therapist assigned to the school will create a file and complete a student case management form and provide summaries/progress reports pending parent/ guardian approval to teacher and staff members. More severe incidents will also be reported in SCM following protocols depending on the type of incident or tiered infraction.

The selection process for determining which outside agency was based on recommendations from MDCPS partner agencies. Additionally PsychSolutions was selected for their experience in trauma work and willingness to provide on-site support. The agency provides the following mental health services including: child & family services, outpatient mental health services, psychosocial rehabilitation group, and cognitive-behavior therapy.

The process for referral and follow up include a copy of the Mutual Exchange of Consent form. Once the social worker receives this form, they will maintain open communication about the interventions the school can have to accommodate the needs of the student.

### **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.**

PsychSolutions

## **MHAA Planned Funds and Expenditures**

### **Allocation Funding Summary**

**MHAA funds provided in the 2023-2024 Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)**  
\$ 80,737.00

**Unexpended MHAA funds from previous fiscal years**

**Grand Total MHAA Funds**  
\$ 80,737.00

### **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.) 1006.041 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:

*No files were uploaded*

### **Charter Governing Board Approval**

This application certifies that the **Miami-Dade County Public 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 8/31/2023