

# FUSION

## AN INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

On behalf of the Bureau of Student Support Services (BoSSS), we would like to wish you a Happy New Year for 2022 and a great start to the second semester of the school year. We hope that you had the chance to exercise some form of self-care during the break. As Maya Angelou said, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

We hope that you will find the resources in this newsletter helpful as you start the semester.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and the School Social Work Association of America have been providing a series of live webinar trainings for school-based mental health professionals throughout Florida. Each topic is offered once live and will be recorded and available for later viewing. Each webinar is eligible for 1 CEU (FL Chapter 491) provided by the Florida Association of School Social Workers. Mental Health professionals who are licensed under Chapter 490 will receive an additional form via email to complete and submit independently to the CE broker. The next training will be held on **Friday, January 21, 2022, 12:00-1:00pm Eastern**, addressing [A Systems Approach to Building Trauma-Sensitive Schools](#).

Please share this training announcement with your school-based mental health professionals. A training flyer will be emailed as well. There are two remaining trainings for this semester. The training flyers will be sent as the dates draw closer.

September was Attendance Awareness Month, but we want to shift attendance awareness to each month of the school year because it is important that students, families, teachers and administrators understand the importance that each day counts. We are aware that the pandemic has had an impact on students attending school regularly, therefore these are quick reminders:

- ◇ Memorandum DPS: 2021-145 [Amendments to Rule 6A-1.044, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\), Pupil Attendance Records](#);
- ◇ Attendance code Q has a limit of 10 days; and
- ◇ Follow your district policy regarding the attendance process.

Please let us know how we can continue to provide support and guidance to your district.

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### Resources

- ◇ Visit our [Suicide Prevention](#) web page for information on how to become a designated suicide prevention certified school and additional resources related to suicide prevention.
- ◇ Framework for Action~  
[Addressing Chronic Absenteeism through ESSA Implementation](#). This resource is meant to help those who are particularly interested in leveraging the Every Student Succeeds Act to support efforts to address chronic absenteeism.



- ◇ Attendance Works has developed [toolkits](#) tailored for educators working with students in preschool through secondary school, as well as principals and school districts. The toolkits are filled with strategies and resources for monitoring, understanding and addressing chronic absence.

The approaches can be implemented in the classroom, or at the school, district, community or state level.

All resources can be downloaded and used without express permission as long as Attendance Works is attributed. See their usage policy.

- ◇ As districts continue to work with students using the Mental Health Assistance Allocation, based on section 1011.62(16), Florida Statutes, the plan must be focused on a multi-tiered 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. View the diagram of [Florida's System of Supports For School-Based Mental Health Services](#).

**Student Services Week** is celebrated **February 7-11, 2022**, in Florida. Student Services Week is an opportunity to feature the exceptional services provided by school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists and school social workers. These services are an integral part of the success of students in the schools in order to achieve and access academic success both in and out of the classroom.



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