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Student Services Professionals...

are united in that we all share a common vision, which is that all students should experience safe and healthy schools where social, emotional, behavioral, academic, physical, and mental wellness is supported so that all students are engaged and successful learners who graduate college and are career ready. Teachers, parents, community organizations, school administrators, and others also share this goal!

Student services professionals are in the unique position of having the expertise to provide the crucial learning supports necessary for realizing the shared vision. Coordinating our work with each other (school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and school social workers) and with other educators so that students receive integrated learning supports maximizes our effectiveness.

Bullying Prevention within an Integrated Model

Bullying prevention efforts are often led by student services professionals and are best implemented within an integrated, multi-tiered system that encourages positive school-wide prevention. Our efforts to prevent bullying by supporting safe, healthy, and inclusive environments should be evaluated for effectiveness based on student impact so that continual improvement can occur. To implement a multi-tiered system that truly benefits all students, professionals must analyze the data reflecting the needs of all student subgroups who may be at risk, including, but not limited to students with disabilities, English language learners, students experiencing homelessness, and lesbian/gay/bi-sexual/transgender/questioning students. We are best able to meet all students' needs by using data throughout the planning and problem-solving process to accurately identify areas of need, analyze data to determine root causes of problems, design and implement prevention and intervention plans matched to areas of need based on root causes, and evaluate the impact of implementation on student learning.

Bullying in schools is of increasing focus for Florida schools, districts, and for the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). Florida Statute 1006.147, also known as the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, requires school districts to adopt an official policy prohibiting bullying and harassment of students and staff on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and through school computer networks. A variety of resources to assist Florida school districts implement comprehensive and effective bullying prevention efforts are available at <http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/bullying.asp>.



The Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/youth-risk-behavior-survey/reports/index.html) (YRBS) is a statewide survey of public high school students administered in odd-numbered years by the Florida Departments of Health and Education. The YRBS is one component of The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), a national survey and monitoring system, which is coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The YRBS monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth. Topics addressed in the survey include violence, school safety, suicide, sexual behavior, alcohol and drug use, weight management, dietary behaviors, and physical activity.

Public high schools are randomly selected for participation in the survey and the data are weighted so that the results are representative of all public high school students in Florida. Survey data are disaggregated by sex, grade, and ethnicity/race. Summary reports and topic-specific fact sheets, which provide an overview of student responses and trend data over time, are published at the Florida Department of Health website at

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/youth-risk-behavior-survey/reports/index.html>.



The YRBS provides universal screening data on the prevalence of adolescent behavioral health issues that supplements Early Warning Systems (EWS) and other screening methods for identifying youth at the district and school levels. Student responses from the 2013 survey indicate that

- ◆ 15 percent of students were bullied at school in the past 12 months;
- ◆ 10 percent of students did not go to school in the past 30 days because of unsafe feelings;
- ◆ 7 percent were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months;
- ◆ 26 percent felt sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more in the past 12 months;
- ◆ 15 percent self-injured without wanting to die;
- ◆ 14 percent considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months; and
- ◆ 8 percent attempted suicide in the past 12 months.

Used in conjunction with School Climate Surveys, YRBS data helps inform systems-level problem solving by developing data-driven hypotheses for why a particular problem is occurring (e.g., absenteeism); what needs to be done to address the concerns, and feedback on how the implemented supports are working. Anonymous survey data like the YRBS are effective at identifying systems level issues but do not identify specific students who need more targeted and intensive supports (Tier 2 and Tier 3).

For more information on the YRBS and other student surveys such as the Middle School Health Behavior Survey, visit Florida's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/index.html>. National, state, and county-level data (where available) can be found on the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrebs/index.htm>.

Academic Advisement

State University System Admissions Tour

The 2014 State University System Admissions Tour, August–September, provided regional admissions workshops designed for middle and high school counselors, school administrators, and district level student services administrators. At these workshops, directors explained admissions philosophies, policies, and procedures so that educators can better meet the needs of their university-bound students. Representatives from the Florida State College System, K-12 Public Schools, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance were available as well.

Presentations, resources, and a webinar related to secondary student progression are available at <http://www.flbog.edu/about/cod/asa/admissionstour.php>.

Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook 2014–2015

The Handbook is prepared annually in response to needs expressed by educators for a simple, easy to understand, but comprehensive reference to postsecondary education in Florida. Educators use this resource in advising students about educational opportunities beyond high school. The Handbook is produced by the Office of Articulation at the FDOE and is available at [FLVC.org–Advising Manuals](http://www.flvc.org-Advising-Manuals).

Academic Advisement Flyers

The FDOE's [Graduation Requirements](#) web page provides academic advisement flyers for students entering by grade nine cohort year. These flyers are available in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole languages.

For questions related to postsecondary admissions, acceleration options, and graduation requirements, please contact Helen Lancashire, school counseling consultant at hlancash@usf.edu or 850-245-7840.

Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Course

The Student Support Services Project would like to applaud the work that school districts across the state are doing to promote child abuse prevention. We are very fortunate to have such wonderfully caring student services leaders who are committed to increasing awareness of child abuse prevention by providing ongoing professional development and other online resources to school-based personnel.

Efforts to identify and prevent child abuse and neglect are more successful when teachers have a clear understanding of the laws that guide child protection. As a result, a one-hour Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect course has been designed for teachers of grades 1 through 12. This course satisfies the continuing education requirement specified in section 1012.98(12), Florida Statutes. This course is required once for each teacher, but school districts may require teachers and other personnel to complete the course annually. The functionality of the course has recently been improved to allow for multiple retakes by the same user.



To access the Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect course, please visit <http://www3.fl-dcf.org/RCAAN/>.

School District Medicaid Administrative Claiming



Electronic Medicaid Administrative Claiming System (EMACS)

Most school districts in Florida participate in the Florida School District Medicaid Administrative Claiming (SDAC) program. This Medicaid program permits reimbursement to school districts for administrative activities performed in support of the Medicaid State Plan. These activities include outreach, Medicaid eligibility determinations, referral, coordination, and monitoring of Medicaid services (such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral services, nursing services, and specialized transportation) provided in the school setting. School districts have claimed over \$900,000,000 since the program's inception in 1998.

School districts obtain this reimbursement by determining the amount of time school district staff spends performing Medicaid administrative activities. The amount of time spent by school district staff on Medicaid administrative activities is captured through the use of time study samples. The results of the time samples are used in a series of calculations to determine the reimbursement claim that is filed with Medicaid.

To assist school districts in obtaining this reimbursement, the Student Support Services project was responsible for the development of the Medicaid Administrative Claiming System (MACS), a free paper-based time study. The Seminole County School District serves as the data manager for MACS and coordinates a quarterly time study with participating school districts. Currently, 53 school districts participate in the SDAC program using MACS. Most school districts not using MACS contract with a private vendor to accomplish the required quarterly time study.

EMACS has been developed to give districts the option of a non-paper-based time study. It is nearing completion and received final approval from the state Medicaid agency in July. Features of the program include electronic notification and reminders at intervals to time study participants, direct entry into the system of activities performed by the time study participant, and electronic signatures. EMACS decreases the time spent in the administration of the time study by the school district coordinator, by removing the responsibility for sending out paper time study forms and entering them into a system.

A process verification of the system with a few districts will be performed. Expect the system to be fully functional for use in the spring of 2015.

If you would like additional information about the program or EMACS system, please contact Anne Glass at aglass@usf.edu or TJ Garrett at Thomas.garrett@fldoe.org.

Early Warning Systems

With the passing of Senate Bill (SB) 850 in the 2014 Florida Legislative Session, the Middle Grades Reform section requires all schools with 6th, 7th, and 8th grades to establish an EWS. Indicator data schools must collect for analysis includes student attendance, suspensions, course failures, and students scoring level 1 on statewide English Language and Math assessments.

Florida Association of Student Service Administrators (FASSA) Summer Institute

During a recent annual meeting, FASSA Summer Institute, Student Services directors from across the state explored how they can support schools to use EWS to identify students who may be off track for successful and timely graduation. Dr. Amber Brundage of the Problem Solving/Response to Intervention Project shared background information about EWS, SB 850 and implications for middle schools, developing an EWS, and utilizing EWS to analyze trends and prevent adverse outcomes.

Discussions included ways Student Service Directors and staff can support best practices and strategies in schools as they are formulating their School Improvement Plans, building a multi-tiered system of supports of preventions and interventions, and how to support district and school action planning to inform this practice.

Upcoming Events

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

October 7–9, 2014

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

This event is designed for educators, child welfare workers, substance abuse treatment providers, juvenile judges and attorneys, law enforcement, probation officers, prevention specialists, physicians, nurses, researchers and evaluators, Tribal communities, community organizations serving youth, and mental health clinicians. Training on the latest research and best practice strategies for drug endangered children efforts at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels will be provided.

<http://www.nationaldec-conference.org>

Florida Association of School Social Workers 68th Annual State Conference

October 23–24, 2014

DoubleTree Hotel, 100 Fairway Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

This event is designed for school social workers and will feature Dr. Paula Allen-Mears, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago.

<http://browardstudentservices.com/conference-registration/>

Student Success Summit 2014

October 20–24, 2014

Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

This event is designed for after-school program administrators, school district administrators, classroom teachers, juvenile justice coordinators, school social workers, school attendance specialists, community-based leaders, faith-based representatives, college administrators, and school volunteer coordinators who represent these agencies and organizations.

The keynotes for this event includes Pam Stewart, Commissioner, FDOE, and Aric Bostic, who is a highly renowned motivational speaker and success trainer for teens and adults.

<http://www.cvent.com/events/student-success-summit-2014/event-summary-29c5e19bado743438d7ba643892e7ea4.aspx>



Comprehensive Health Education

Human Trafficking – House Bill 7141

During the 2014 legislative session, a bill was passed regarding human trafficking to further protect our youth. House Bill 7141 requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the lead agency along with other agencies, including the FDOE, to employ screening and assessment instruments for sexually exploited children. It provides criteria for placement of sexually exploited children in safe houses and safe foster homes. The bill directs DCF, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and other specified agencies to participate in coalitions and task forces to coordinate local responses and creates a Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

The Council met August 18, 2014, and established three specialized committees to best utilize the expertise of council members: Resources and Services, Criminal Justice, and Legislative and Special Initiatives. The Commissioner of Education's designee is Health Education Coordinator Michelle L. Gaines from the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support. FDOE will serve on the Resources and Services committee beginning in November.

Human trafficking is a heinous offense against humanity. FDOE Healthy Schools created a [Child Human Trafficking](#) document, which provides resources to identify human trafficking and raise awareness within the community. This document helps educators, school staff, community-based professionals, and parents recognize potential human trafficking and help victims access specialized services. We encourage you to use this resource to help eradicate human trafficking.

Living Healthy In Florida

Quality of health impacts our ability to engage in learning experiences. Living Healthy in Florida is a multi-agency campaign created to provide simple tools to promote healthy lifestyles in our state. You will find facts about Florida-grown produce, shopping tips, recipes, videos, and more in the [Living Healthy in Florida toolkit](#).

October Produce

- ◆ Avocado
- ◆ Carambola
- ◆ Cucumber
- ◆ Grapefruit
- ◆ Guava
- ◆ Mushroom
- ◆ Okra
- ◆ Orange
- ◆ Squash
- ◆ Sweet Corn
- ◆ Tangerine
- ◆ Tomato



For more information, please visit <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/> or contact Michelle L. Gaines, FDOE Health Education Coordinator, at Michelle.Gaines@fldoe.org.

School Districts Recognized as Florida Healthy School Districts

The Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership, Florida Action for Healthy Kids, and Florida Association of District School Superintendents recognize the following 27 school districts as Florida Healthy School Districts. This recognition was determined by submission of the Florida Healthy School District Self-Assessment and a score rating at the bronze, silver, or gold level.

The Florida Healthy School Districts are districts that have made a high level commitment to meeting the health needs of students and staff in order to remove barriers to learning and maximize district resources.

The criterion for recognition as a Florida Healthy School District is the Florida Healthy School District (FHSD) Self-Assessment Tool that focuses on district infrastructure, policy, programs, and practices identified from national and state guidelines, best practices, and Florida statutes.

Meet the Florida Healthy School Districts!

2014–2016

- ◆ Gold: Baker, Brevard, Nassau, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa
- ◆ Silver: Broward, Columbia, Duval, Escambia, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Okeechobee, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, St. Lucie
- ◆ Bronze: Bay, Indian River, Volusia

2013–2015

- ◆ Gold : Leon, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Sarasota
- ◆ Silver: St. Johns
- ◆ Bronze: Hamilton

For more information about how to build a healthy school district please visit <http://www.healthydistrict.com/> and/or <http://www.fldoe.org/bii/cshp/h-districts.asp>.

National Standardized Data Set for School Health Services: Step Up and Be Counted!

The National Association of School Nurses and National Association of State School Nurse Consultants have developed a national uniform, standardized data set for all school nurses to collect specific data for the 2014-2015 school year on the number of nurses in schools, the number of children with diagnosed chronic health conditions, and the disposition of children seen in the school health office. Dr. Dianne Mennitt, school nurse consultant, invites all Florida school nurses to participate! The data points, data collection tool, talking points, frequently asked questions, and webinars are located at <http://www.nasn.org/Research/StepUpBeCounted>. For more information, please contact Dr. Mennitt at dmennitt@usf.edu.