

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR DISTRICT FOUR 4 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Are there any grants / funding for student that are experiencing Mental illness. I don't want my daughter to fall through the cracks! What's the stats on this? I have to be an advocate for my daughter as well as others. Who is the contact person that knows about resources and who to reach out to other than the Counselor?

This is also an area that the District sees as a priority. Many resources are available. Families can reach out to The Front Porch a multi-agency resource center for guidance. We have a district Wellness Center that can provide direct supports to students as well as referrals to wrap around services if needed. They do not provide diagnoses; however, they do provide up to 8 counseling sessions in areas such as emotional regulation, general anxiety, and social skills. The Wellness Center also conducts threat assessments, The counselors and coordinator of the Wellness Center are licensed professional counselors (LPCs). We also have a certified health educator who is also a social worker. The contact information is Dr. Kim Jackson-Allen the coordinator (912) 856-4895, Counselor Telisha Odums-Oladela (912) 346-0176. Parents should contact their school for a referral.

The entire district is short on SLPs, (Speech Language Pathologists) and many students who should be receiving services per their IEPs are not and have not been for several months. What is the district doing to address this shortage and recruit additional SLPs? What is the district's plan to ensure these students receive the services?

The district is finalizing 3 contracts currently with additional external vendors to provide services through virtual/teletherapy. We are advertising for candidates on an ongoing basis and we also are accepting university SLP graduate candidates that are doing their internship with the district. The Department of Specialized Instruction is tracking the hours of services not received for students so that as we bring on additional resources in this area services can be considered by the IEP team. We are exploring incentives for SLPs such as stipends for those with increased caseloads.

As a teacher who prioritizes my students and works hard to ensure they are equally supported and challenged, what will you do to attract/retain better teachers in this district? The turnover is high, and this has had a massive impact on student progress.

Recruitment and retention efforts belong to all SCCPSS employees. Great educators have great friends whom they can refer to the profession. We will continue our Educator Referral program. We will continue to offer competitive salaries. The Division of Human Resources reviews Exit Survey data to see where we can improve our practices and will soon gather data from current educators on recruitment and retention ideas. The Professional Learning department has many layered support mechanisms to support

teachers and staff. Moreover, we will continue to work with our leaders to refine our recruitment and retention efforts. Together, we can recruit and retain high quality educators.