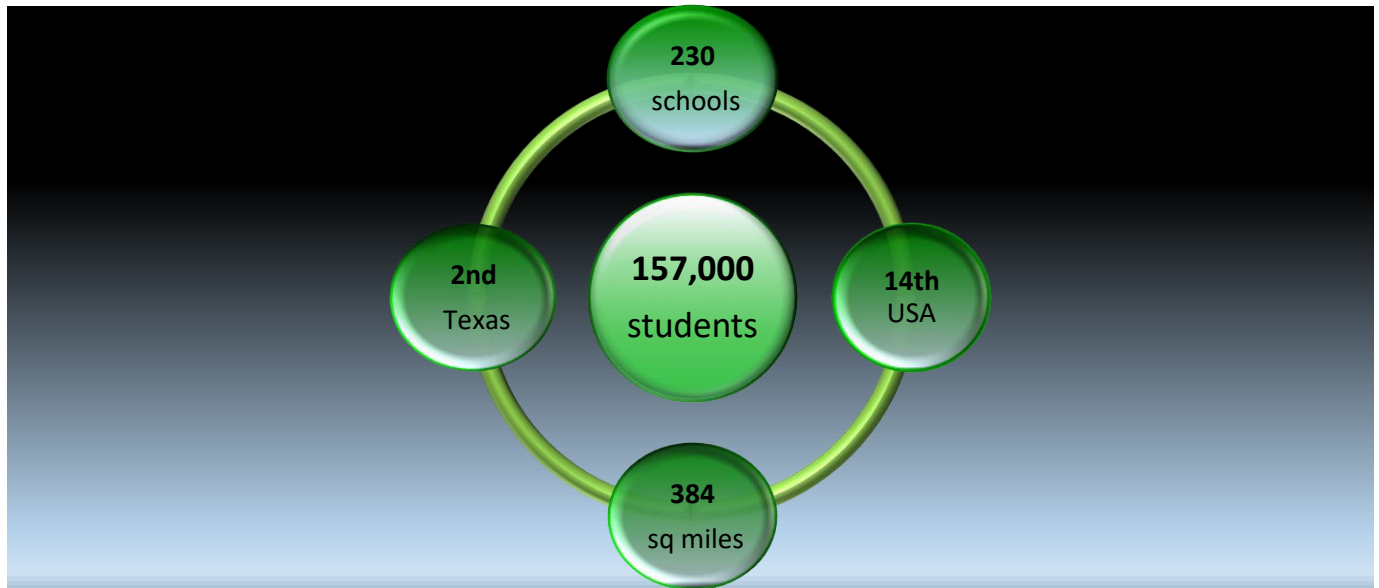


Dallas ISD Psychological & Social Services



Dallas Independent School District

Overview

The Mission of the Dallas ISD Psychological and Social Services Department is to improve the academic achievement and well-being of students through the provision of positive behavioral support through psychological and social services.

The department emphasizes strength-based interventions and works to devise strategies that recognize the importance of considering the whole child in the context of his/her school, family and community. We believe it is our responsibility to provide the best evidence based practices in the least intrusive manner possible to assist our students and families in achieving their goals and the goals of the district.

Who we reach Using an inclusive and student centered approach

- Focusing on supporting students, families and campus staff
- Collaborating with community partners and school district services

What we do Promoting positive mental health using a multidimensional view of wellness

- Emotional/psychological
- Physical
- Academic
- Environmental

How we do it Offering comprehensive, holistic and multidisciplinary programming and services

- Individual/group/family counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Consulting and training
- Promoting Mental Health awareness through outreach

PSS Mental Health Delivery Model



Direct service delivery is provided by all staff who are assigned geographically and into Peer Review/Crisis Teams to cover all 230 campuses. Staff on average are assigned 5-6 campuses.

1. **Behavior Response Team** 8 Staff on this team provide technical assistance to department and campus staff to address aggressive, dis-regulated student behaviors by assisting with FBAs and devising behavior plans for campuses to implement. We also assist campus staff with developing MTSS interventions and training on behavior management.
2. **Mindfulness Team** 10 Staff on this team provide internal and external training plus assistance to classroom teachers who volunteer to use mindfulness practice in classrooms. A major focus is on age 3-8 year olds. Trainings provided on use of mindfulness practice for self-care and clinical applications.
3. **Crisis Teams** All staff are geographically assigned on 5 crisis teams. We respond to de-stabilizing incidents that impact campuses such as deaths, completed suicides, public health incidents (flu pandemic, Ebola) etc.
4. **Peer Review Teams** All staff assigned to Crisis Teams meet every 6 weeks to review:
 - a) Crisis events in previous 6 weeks
 - b) Data analysis for trends/patterns on services provided in previous 6 weeks
 - c) Clinical support for complex cases
5. **Re-Entry Services** All staff follow up with students returning from disciplinary placements, behavioral hospitals or treatment centers to provide support and connection with needed services.

HISTORY of DALLAS ISD PSYCHOLOGICAL and SOCIAL SERVICES

Starting our 55th year of service



Where we have been

- 1965** First psychologists hired to provide psychological services for students
- 1971** Psychologists began campus visits
- 1987** Developed suicide risk assessment process and procedures
- 1991** 1st school district with APA accredited program
- 1999** Developed threat assessment procedures
- 2005** Hurricane Katrina: Sept
- 2006** Created Crisis Team model & procedures
- 2008** Implemented digital documentation of cases
Revised threat assessment process
- 2009** Implemented peer review process
Created clinical algorithms
Developed flu pandemic guidance
- 2014** Ebola Outbreak: Sept-Nov. 6,000 students
- 2015** Added Mindfulness & Behavior teams
Added Re-Entry services

Where we are now

1. Added BCBA certified supervisor & staff to Behavior team
2. Expanded safety plan continuums for support after a risk or threat assessment
3. Piloted electronic reporting for suicide and violence risk assessments
4. Reviewed Suicide Assessment procedures
Changes will be implemented district-wide 2020-21
5. Added Certified Mindfulness Educator to Mindfulness team
6. Expanded Mindfulness program district-wide
7. Initiated new data collection system for PSS staff to record all case encounters more efficiently
8. Developed Mental Health Crisis Protocols reflecting district policies and procedures for district-wide usage
9. Completed Social Media research that gauges mental health impact on Middle School students to provide guidance to parents

PSS Collaboration with Student Services Division



PSS works in collaboration with other departments and programs within the Student Services Division to provide a combined safety net and wrap-around service plan for our most vulnerable students.

Student Services departments and programs with which PSS collaborates most closely are:

Youth & Family Centers School Based Health Centers situated on 12 campuses throughout the district. We work closely with the psychiatrists and therapists working with students who attend our schools to provide supports and wraparound services.

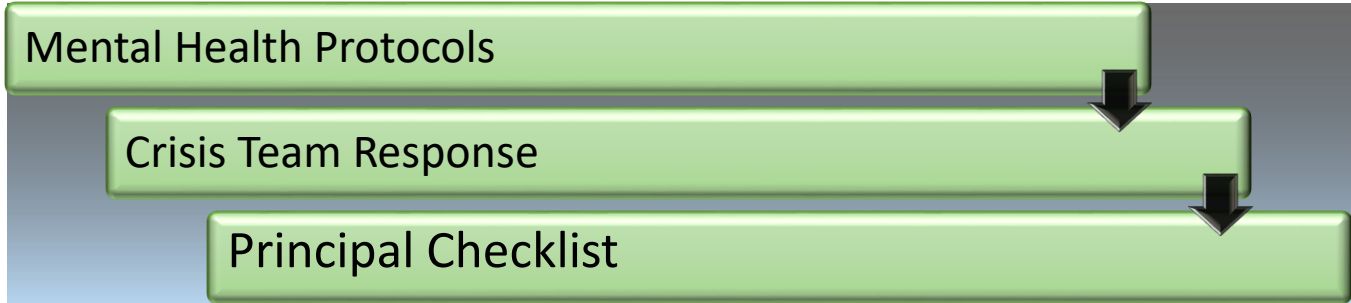
Counseling Services School counselors are key members to any holistic team approach to serving students. School counselors work closely with PSS staff to complete suicide risk and threat assessments, identify and support 504 students, co-lead counseling groups.

Homeless Education Program The homeless program coordinates with campuses to provide Drop-In centers at all secondary campuses and is working with community partners to open a shelter for unaccompanied youth in the 2019-20 school year. PSS staff work closely with this program to identify and support all our homeless families and unaccompanied youth.

Alcohol and Drug Intervention PSS staff work closely with our Alcohol & Drug specialist when seeking drug and alcohol services for students in need.

Health Services School nurses are key stakeholders that provide invaluable support to students with chronic mental health and health conditions. We work closely with them to support students with self-regulation and/or management of chronic psychiatric disorders.

Crisis Response Services Continuum



An automated incident alert system has been developed by the Student Advocacy department in Student Services that generates an alert to PSS when an incident occurs on a campus during or after school hours that involves the mental health of a student. The alert goes to the Director of PSS and then referred to the staff member assigned to the campus who makes the initial response and assessment.

Additional assistance may be called for by the staff member from their crisis team members in:

- **Mental Health Crisis Protocols** have been developed to reflect district policy and procedures on crisis response, suicide and threat assessment for the district.
- **Principal's Checklist** assists administrators in their work with our crisis teams which includes postvention procedures.
- **Crisis Teams** have a designated team leader and specific roles and functions to fill when responding to a campus-wide incident. There is a checklist of actions to take and materials developed for classroom intervention and guidance on memorials. All staff have received training in Psychological First Aid (PFA) from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). In Addition to PFA, PSS staff and Director have received training in NOVA and NASP Prepare.

Technology/Data

PSS works to develop valid and reliable measures to provide just in time data that guides our planning and program development. Data will be provided at the TASP panel presentation on Crisis Response, Suicide and Violence Risk assessments for the past 12 years and the 2018-19 school year PSS referral numbers.

Staff Development/Performance

New skill acquisition is provided through workshops either internally or externally of the department. Clinical supervision is provided to staff that are newly licensed per requirements of the respective licensing boards. Performance coaching is provided to all staff to meet department and district requirements in areas related to job accountability and productivity.

1. **APA Doctoral Internship Program** Follows standards established by APA for supervision and field experience
2. **New LSSP and LCSW staff** attend weekly supervision for first year to provide onboarding support and clinical supervision
3. **LMSW social workers** weekly supervision by LCSW supervisors to acquire LCSW licensure
4. **All staff are assigned to Peer Review Teams** that meet every 6 weeks to review data, provide clinical case support and review crisis response calls for that time period