

FUSION

AN INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Dear School Support Professionals,

As we draw closer to the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the project consultants and staff at the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services would like to wish you a successful end of the year. We know that your work takes a team effort, which includes working with schools, parents, students and community partners to assist with the effort to bring about positive change.

Wrapping up the school year can be challenging, but as you reflect on positive highlights from this past year this can bring great joy.

The 4Rs below will provide you with some information that you can share and use as well.



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Resilience

[Resiliency & Mental Health Resources](#)

What is resilience? Coming back after challenges or setbacks.

Relationships

Building positive relationships is very important. It helps to create a caring and safe school environment where students, families and staff feel safe and welcome.

Reflection

The opportunity to reflect will provide the time to look back and allow you to gain insight into how to move forward as you finish out this school year. However, more important, it takes a temperature on how you are doing now, and will help you develop a sense of self-awareness.

Resources

It is important to create a caring, safe community that aligns with Tier 1 of the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports), a framework that helps allocate support resources to students based on data-driven assessments. Tier 1, primary intervention, supports all students by setting up classroom-wide systems for students and staff. When schools identify a child at risk, the student receives specialized attention as part of Tier 2 or Tier 3 prevention levels. Providing a caring school setting may reduce the need for higher-level services.

The Florida Department of Children and Families is returning to its normal process for Medicaid renewals, a process called Medicaid redeterminations or renewals.

This means you may need to reapply for benefits so the state of Florida can redetermine your eligibility and you can keep Medicaid benefits. If you lose coverage, there are options.

Are you going to lose your Medicaid?

Do you or a family member currently have health coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)/KidCare? Take steps now to find out if you can continue your Medicaid coverage or if you are eligible for a health plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace *.

Some things you can do to prepare:

- ✓ Make sure your **address** is up to date with **DCF (Department of Children & Families)**
- ✓ **Read your mail** for Medicaid notices
- ✓ **Contact your local Navigator** for free help

For more information, call your local Navigator toll-free: (866) 295-5955

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The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number 9800215400010100 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.

Please review the flyer for additional information



Professional Development

We are seeking professional development training ideas for the 2023-2024 school year that will help to expand your knowledge as a mental health services providers in the school setting. Please send your idea to Beverley Wilks at Beverley.Wilks@fldoe.org.

2023 Florida School Safety Summit

June 12-14, 2023

The theme is “Partnerships in School Security and Mental Health.” It will emphasize the importance of school safety professionals working alongside their mental health professional counterparts. The program will include School Safety Specialist certification content and relevant training for Mental Health Coordinators.

Conference Hotel:
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
1 Grand Cypress Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32836

How to Talk to Kids About Mental Health!

This short article shares **Do's and Don'ts** from the Youth Mental Health First Aid curriculum.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

A time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

Your school can get the following designation “ Suicide Prevention Certified School” by completing the following requirements:

- ◇ All instructional personnel are required to complete two hours of a department-approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training every three years;
- ◇ The youth suicide awareness and prevention training must be included in the district’s continuing education or master inservice plan;
- ◇ The school has at least two school-based mental health services providers that are qualified to conduct a suicide risk assessment using a department-approved screening instrument; and
- ◇ The school or district has a policy requiring the use of an approved suicide risk assessment instrument administered by a school-based mental health services provider prior to requesting or initiating an involuntary examination due to concerns about a student’s suicide risk.

Please see the link below for additional information.

<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/suicide-prevent.stml>

Supporting Students Transitioning from Alternative School Settings - Webinar Recording

[Region 9 Comprehensive Center \(R9CC\)](#)

The webinar featured a panel discussion with students and staff from West40, R9CC advisory board members, and experts on how youth-serving adults can best support students transitioning from non-traditional settings, such as alternative schools, to traditional school settings. Students and panelists discussed how teachers and school staff can create a more welcoming and positive learning environment; how schools can pair students with a significant adult in their school; and how staff can communicate more transparently to support students during their transition. Students and panelists also discussed how schools can better address disciplinary issues and what that looks like in practice. The event highlighted recommendations and insights from an infographic developed from focus groups conducted by the Region 9 Advisory Board with students at West40.



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