

  
**CCPS School Safety Task Force**  
**Student Support Services**  
**Workgroup #4**  
**Review of Recommendations -**  
**10/2/18**

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School Safety Task Force  
Workgroup #4

**THANK YOU!!!!**

- Bowman, Leslie
- Burcham, Debbie
- Casey, Joe
- Clark, Erin
- Copp, James
- Deckert, Jennifer
- Feeney, Marianne
- Innes, Bob
- Kline, Jana
- Leonard, Karl
- Lundy, NP
- Manell, Ashley
- Mitchell, Melanie
- Ovies, Odette
- Welch, Pam
- Williamson, Dawn

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**Meeting Dates & Focus**

May 7, 2018 - Defining mental wellness & identifying subgroups

May 29, 2018

June 5, 2018

July 17, 2018

August 2, 2018

August 9, 2018

August 20, 2018

August 28, 2018

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**Objectives and  
Scope of Work**

Objectives:

- A. Evaluate current protocols and practices, and investigate best practices to ensure the school division is providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environment.
- B. Make recommendations that improve student mental health wellness and decrease risks of harm to self and others through evidence-based prevention and intervention Strategies.

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**Objectives and  
Scope of Work**

Scope of Work: Investigate and determine:

- A. Role of Student Support Services Personnel (School Counselors, Psychologists and Social Workers) in School Safety
- B. Partnership with Chesterfield County Government, to include Chesterfield Mental Health and Social Services
- C. Suicide Awareness and Prevention efforts
- D. Drugs in School and the Opioid Crisis, to include discussion regarding school curriculum in Virginia Beach Schools

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**Recommendation #1**

Amend Standards of Quality and align student support personnel ratios with best practices.

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- CCPS is well below the best practices for professional staffing to student ratios.
- The work group recommends that the state amend the Virginia Standards of Quality to establish, and/or CCPS adopts, best practice staffing levels for School Psychologists (1 to 1000), School Social Workers (1 to 1000), School Nurses (1 to 550) and School Counselors (1 to 250).
- Amending the Standards of Quality would ensure that schools have the resources needed to foster a safe, supportive learning environment.

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**Recommendation #2**

Conduct a review of student support services' job responsibilities and reassign tasks that do not conform to professional training and expertise.

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- School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Nurses, and School Social Workers, have assigned duties that are not a part of their professional responsibilities.
- The work group recommends that CCPS conduct a review of current student support services personnel job responsibilities in order to identify assigned duties/tasks that fail to align with professional expertise.
- Aligning expected responsibilities to professional training and expertise would allow student support services personnel the time to more comprehensively address the academic, social/emotional and career/transition needs of our students.

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**Recommendation #3**

Develop a plan to initially fund and sustain multi-tiered whole child frameworks, pre-K through 12th grade: Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Trauma Informed Care (TIC), Restorative Practices (RP), Positive Behavior Interventions & Support (PBIS)

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- CCPS currently employs, through grant funding, specialist positions for SEL, PBIS, RP, and TIC as well as six School Social Work positions.
- The workgroup recommends funding and sustaining these initiatives, AND the student support services staff to support these prevention focused initiatives, which provide schools with frameworks that have been shown to produce positive academic, social, and emotional outcomes.

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**Recommendation #4**

Review and critically evaluate parent/guardian education and awareness activities related to wellness (physical and mental health), student mental health supports and resources available in CCPS and in the community (e.g., SOS Program, Sandy Hook Promise, Threat Assessment Process, PBIS frameworks, Chesterfield Mental Health).

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- Through this review and evaluation, CCPS would increase collaboration between schools and families, increase visibility of each schools' wellness committee, and increase partnerships with outside agencies to create parent engagement opportunities within schools.
- The workgroup endorses an increase of coordination between the CCPS Family and Community Engagement (FACE) office and schools to build a variety of opportunities for parent engagement.

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**Recommendation #5**

Develop an intentional plan for implementation of whole child development programming (academic, behavioral, physical, and psychological) that aligns with the current strategic plan (Imagine Tomorrow).

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- To ensure that priorities identified in the new CCPS Strategic plan are met, the workgroup recommends the development of an intentional plan focused on how whole child development will be implemented in schools.
- CCPS can use this plan to determine adjustments to current programming, elimination of duplicative programming, and the need for future programming.

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**Recommendations #s 6-9**

6. The Task Force requests that the Virginia Department of Education review the current attendance regulations. A bill should be introduced to revise 22.1-258 of the Code of Virginia, with a new timeframe of required intervention.

7. Request a review of federal, state, and local laws/policies governing special education procedures for students and how these laws/policies are implemented in CCPS. Request a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) audit to review the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements (special education) and VDOE's mandates regarding IDEA.

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**Recommendations #s 6-9**

8. Explore the benefits and disadvantages of an anonymous reporting and messaging system for students to alert school personnel to concerns regarding student and/or school safety, for possible implementation in 2019-20 school year.

9. Centralize the school enrollment process for students, either during high volume periods (e.g. summer) or year around.

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You cannot recover from anxiety by just staying calm. You cannot recover from depression by just being positive. You cannot recover from anorexia nervosa by just eating more.

If mental illnesses were that simple we wouldn't be struggling in the first place.

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