



A Focus on Mental Health



School Board Meeting
November 19, 2018



Start with School Climate

School climate is the way school culture affects a child's sense of safety and acceptance, and consequently, is a critical determinant of students' ability to focus on learning. It includes the following:

- **Engagement** - cultural and linguistic competence, relationships, school participation
- **Safety** - emotional and physical, bullying/cyberbullying, emergency readiness and management
- **Environment** - physical, instructional, physical and mental health, discipline

Syosset is Proactive

- Ongoing professional development, including a nationally recognized consultant in positive behavior supports and best practices to address awareness, prevention, and treatment of challenging behaviors/mental health issues
- 2016: K - 12 task force including teachers, mental health staff, nurses, and administrators to develop a coordinated and comprehensive system to address students' social/emotional/behavioral/mental health needs
- Incorporating recent NY State Education guidelines on mental health literacy into an instructional and community-based framework to support student and staff wellness

Elementary

- Use of an evidence-based social/emotional learning program
- Mindfulness activities embedded in the school day
- School-based goals for the development of positive behavioral supports for all students
- Additional social worker support available
- Grade and building level programs and activities to increase sensitivity to differences with self and others

Middle School

- No Place for Hate designation
- Student advisory pilot
- School-based goals for the development of positive behavioral supports for all students
- Peer mentoring and tutoring
- Social skills and friendship groups
- Wellness lessons embedded in the PE curriculum
- Health curriculum aligned with NY State mental health literacy guidelines
- Exceed the NY State mandate for health education
- Additional social worker support
- Additional psychologist support

High School Mental Health Supports & Programs

Supports/Programs

- Wellness Program (all students)
- Peer Leadership Program
- Grade 11 Health classes
- 3 Psychologists
- K-12 Social Worker
- School Counselor (drug & alcohol)
- 11 Guidance Counselors
- Instructional Support Team
- PRIDE = School-wide Character Education Programs



2018-2019 Enhancements

- Increase Social Worker Caseload
- Added Secondary Psychologist
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Threat Assessment Committee, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee
- Positive Behavioral Supports for all students
- Implemented the Mental Health Education Literacy in Schools Above Expectations



Comprehensive Mental Health Supports/Programs Meeting and Exceeding State Mandates

NYSED Mandated Health Curriculum

NYSED Health Curriculum Mandate	Syosset Exceeds Mandate
Elementary Teach a sequential health curriculum (no seat time required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embedded Mindfulness curriculum K-5• Grade 5 gender health issues unit of study• Social emotional learning curriculum pilot
Grade 6 None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• .25 Health credit taught by a certified Health Teacher
Grades 7-8 .5 Health credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• .5 Health credit• Wellness Curriculum (15 days - Phys. Ed Rotation)
High School (9-12) .5 Health credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• .5 Health credit• Grades 9 & 10 Wellness curriculum (40 days - Phys. Ed Rotation)• Grade 11 Junior Day with classroom reinforcement• Grade 11 Community Health elective (1 credit)• Peer Leadership Program (9-12)• Health Fair (9-12)

Threat Assessment Protocol

Goal: Identify students of concern, assess their risk for violence or other harmful activities, and identify intervention strategies to manage the risk

1. Multi-disciplinary team
2. Define behaviors
3. Develop a reporting system
4. Establish procedures to assess level of threat
5. Align intervention systems and programs
6. Provide ongoing professional development



Thank You