



Supporting Juvenile Issues Prince George's County Council

Prince George's County Public Schools
Department of Student Services
January 30, 2024

Overview of Discussion

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Focus on Truancy
- Disciplinary Policies
- Alternative to Suspensions and Interventions
- Supports - Counselors, PPWS and Clinicians
- Focus on Bullying
- Focus on Violence
- Community Resources
- Q&A



The Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey (MYRBS/YBS):

- is an on-site survey of students in Maryland public middle and high schools
- focuses on behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability:
 - alcohol and other drug use,
 - tobacco use,
 - sexual behaviors,
 - unintentional injuries and violence, and
 - poor physical activity and dietary behaviors.

Juvenile Issues in Schools

According to the most recent (2021-2022) MYRBS/YBS Survey, high school students in Prince George's County Public Schools expressed:

- 3.9% carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club, on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey) (1649 total respondents)
- 6.6% students were in a physical fight on school property (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey) (1655 total respondents)
- 10.3% students were bullied on school property (ever during the 12 months before the survey) (1653 total respondents)

Juvenile Issues in Schools

According to the most recent (2021-2022) MYRBS/YBS Survey, high school students in Prince George's County Public Schools expressed:

- 21% students had seriously considered attempting suicide (during the 12 months before the survey) (1633 total respondents)
- 25.3% students had used an electronic vapor product (including e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookahs, hookah pens, and mods [such as JUUL, SMOK, Suorin, Vuse, and blu]) (1584 total respondents)
- students had currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol, on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey) (1549 total respondents)

Students' Common Concerns

Issues students presented as the reason for counseling services included:

- Academics
- Anger Management
- Anxiety
- Attendance
- Bullying
- Depression
- Family Problems
- Grief/Loss
- Low Self-Esteem
- Sadness
- Social Skills
- Suicide Ideation



Implementing Interventions to Reduce Truancy

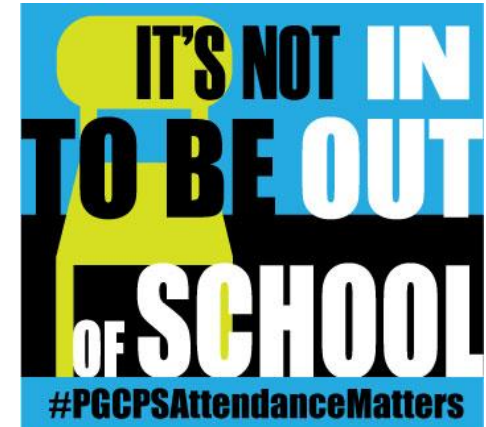
Our Attendance Administrative Procedure provides guidance on lawful and unlawful absences and strategies for intervening and supporting student attendance.

Prevention

- Parental Contact
- Home Visits
- Refer to the Student Intervention Team
- Attendance Plans
- ALLHERE - Chatbot

Intervention

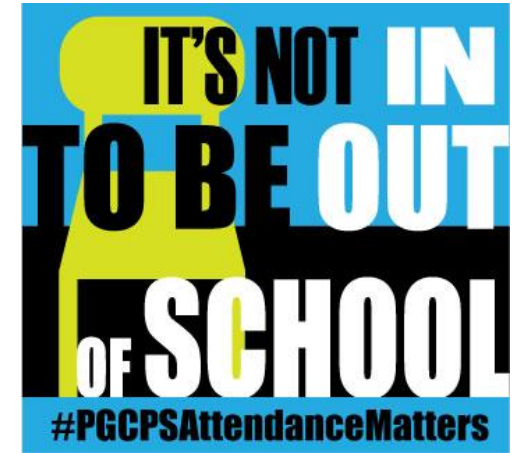
- Home visits
- Refer to Interagency Council
- State's Attorney/CEO Joint Letter
- Truancy Court
- Refer to External Resources
- Anti Truancy Program w/State's Attorney Office



Implementing Interventions to Reduce Truancy (18 yrs and Older)

Prevention

- Administrative Procedure
- Referral to Student Intervention Team
- Referral to Student Support Team
- Home visits
- Exit Conferences
- Referral to Alternative Education Programs
 - Evening Virtual Program
 - Job Corp
 - Freestate Challenge Academy
 - GED Prep and Test Administration



In School Disciplinary Policies and Interventions

The **Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook** provides guidance to administrators, parents and students on how infractions should be handled. When infractions are criminal in nature, School Security and Law Enforcement are involved. Discipline is first meant to be **restorative** and **reformative**.

School Level Strategies

- Referral to Mental Health Clinician
- Referral for Counseling Services
- Community Conferencing
- Restorative Approaches
- Functional Behavioral Assessments
- Behavior Intervention Plans
- Check In's/Daily Progress Reports
- Referral to External Resources or school-based programs



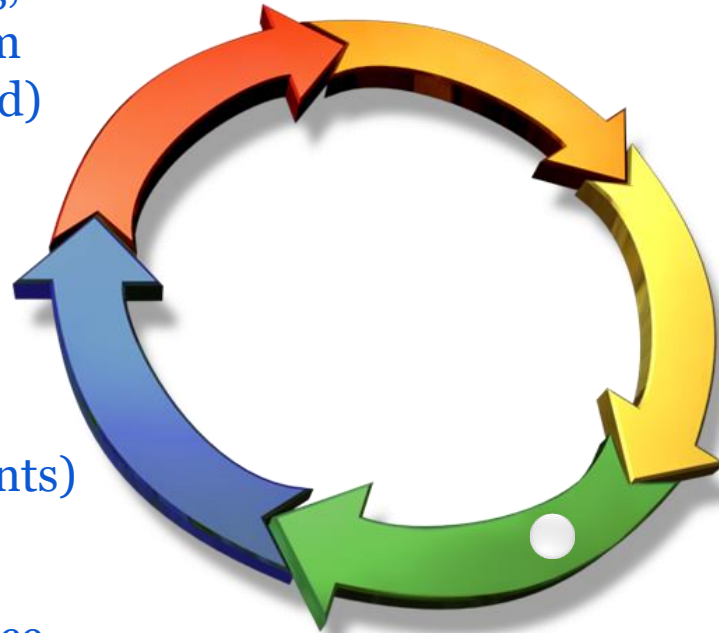
Support through the School Counselor

Individual Counseling, Groups and Classroom Guidance (SEL aligned)

Case Management of Special Populations (504, Homeless Students)

Helps create attendance plans for chronically absent students

[See Crosswalk for more information.](#)



Creates student Academic, Social Emotional, College and Career Plans and Strategies

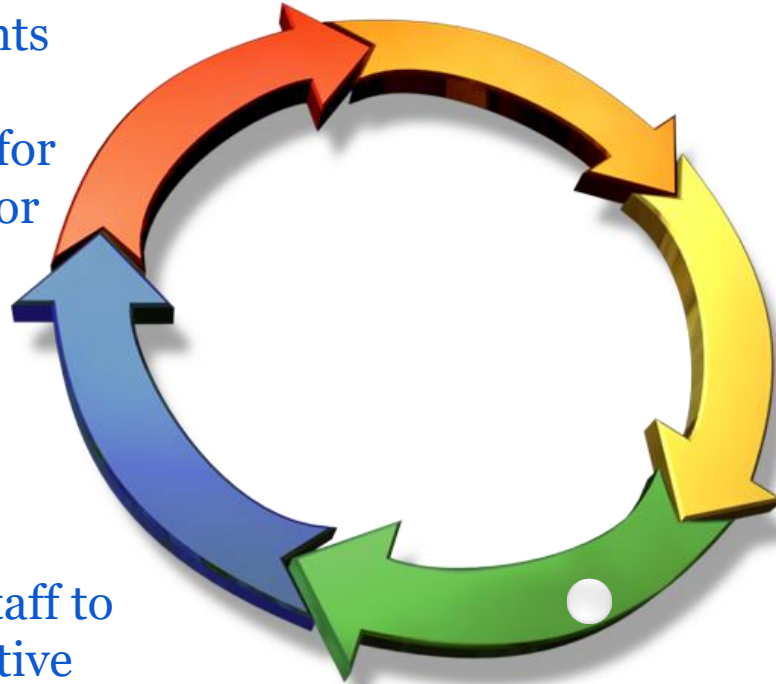
Holds Sessions with students who re-enter from suspensions

Students in Crisis -Suicidal Ideation, Self Injurious, Loss

Support through the Pupil Personnel Worker

Advocate:

Supports student rights & responsibilities.
Ensures due process for all students. Facilitator for Extended Suspensions



Liaison:

Works with school staff to help maintain a positive home-school connection through strategies such as home visits and conferences

Consultant:

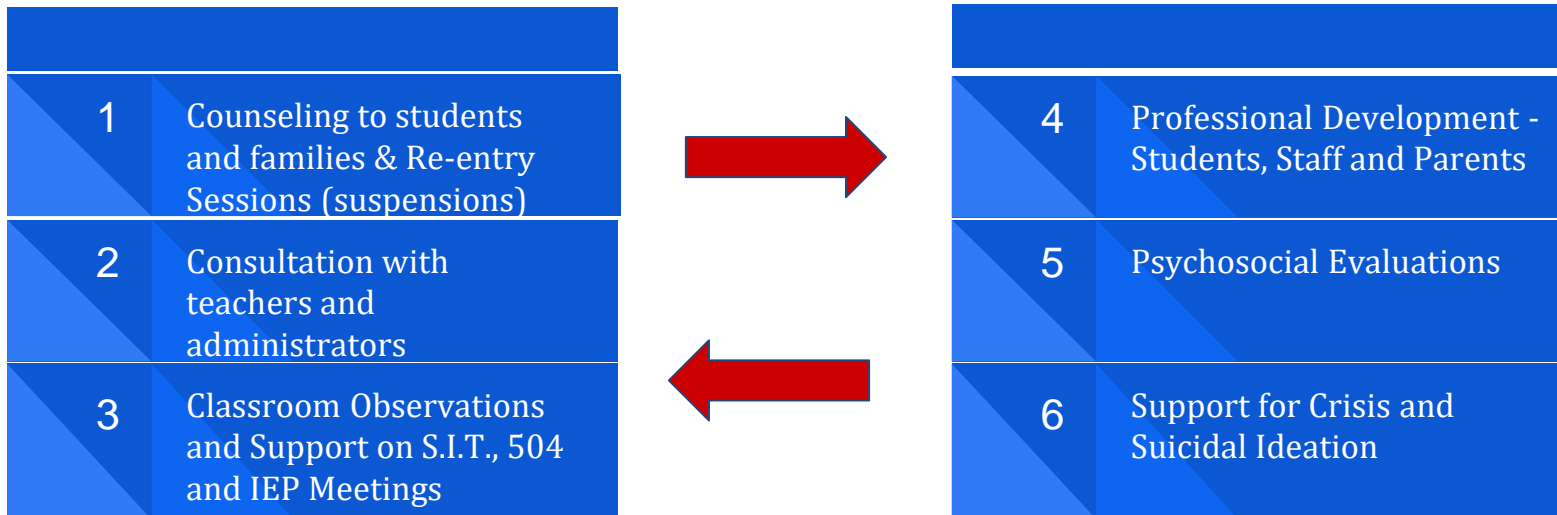
Serves as a consultant to administration, school staff, parents/guardians on issues such as attendance, discipline, residency, counseling, and crisis intervention. Interprets PGCPS administrative policies and procedures, federal, state, and local laws

Referral Source:

Refers students and families to internal and outside resources

Support through Mental Health Clinicians

Critical Daily Functions



Support through Hazel Telehealth

- Hazel Health is a telehealth provider that will allow students to see a medical doctor or a mental health therapist over a virtual visit, at no cost. Provided to us in partnership with the Health Department.
- We have rolled out two models: **Hazel at Home** and **Hazel at School**.
- All PGCPS families will have access to **Hazel at Home**.
- Parents will be able to use any web-enabled device to reach a Hazel provider from 7 AM - 7 PM, Monday through Friday.
- **Hazel at School** is now available for all schools.



Implementing Interventions to Reduce Bullying

Prevention

- Anti-Bullying Plan - year-long
- Bullying Awareness Month
- PBIS
- Restorative Approaches
- Information to Parents - Wellness Wednesdays
- Safe Schools Videos/Second Step
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Lessons



Intervention

- Support for Bully and Victim/Targeted Student
- Counselors/Clinicians meet upon re-entry from suspensions
- Bullying Advisory Council - New this year

Implementing Interventions to Reduce Violence

School Level Strategies

- Trauma Approach
- Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
- Adhere to Administrative Procedure
- Refer to the Student Intervention Team
- SEL/Safe Schools/Everfi
- Mental Health Supports
- Prek-2 Suspension Procedure
- Threat Assessment
- Re-entry sessions



District Level Strategies

- CEO Student Advisory
- Focus Groups - ES/MS
- Refer to the Student Intervention Team
- Project Prevent Grant

Mental Health Supports

	Training & Education	Counseling Supports	Resources
Student Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Harmony & Quarter - Social Emotional Lessons (Grades PreK-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-Awareness ○ Social Awareness ○ Self-Management ○ Responsible Decision Making ○ Relationship Skills • Everitt Courses - Mental Wellness Basics (Grades 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding Trauma ○ Understanding Mental Health Disorders ○ Healthy Coping Skills ○ Getting Help • Safe Schools & Naviance - Safety and Wellness Courses & Goal Setting (Grades 6 - 12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Suicide Awareness ○ Bullying and Cyberbullying ○ Alcohol, Drug and Vaping ○ Sexual Harassment ○ Digital Citizenship (Grades 9 - 12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Depression ○ Stress & Anxiety ○ Good Decision Making ○ Healthy Relationships ○ Resolving Disagreement • Sources of Strength (Grades 6 - 12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evidence-based suicide prevention and helping seeking program • Wellness Council - Utilize the Wellness Champions to create/implement activities. 	<p>Individual and Group Counseling provided through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional School Counselors • School Psychologists • Social Workers • Mental Health Clinicians (All schools) • Evening Counseling Centers • Prince George's County Behavioral Health Services <p>Critical Processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess students for issues transitioning back to school; traumatic stress, especially students with a history of anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, learning or attention disorders, child abuse, domestic violence. Students whose family is impacted by job loss, income loss or loss of a loved one and where a family member is a healthcare worker or works in an occupation with potential exposure to the virus should also be identified. • Provide individual virtual counseling to students who express fears, loss, anxiety and/or signs of depression; • Implement suicide intervention and behavior threat assessment processes as needed; • Refer students in need of additional services; and • Contact the Mobile Crisis Team when appropriate. 	<p>Resources (school-wide structures/programs) supportive of student's mental health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm Space Guidelines: Guidelines for families and staff to create calm spaces for students at home and in school. Calm space tools distributed to schools. • Art & Mental Health Project: 500 Ways to Cope: Initiative to give students a means of expressing and sharing how they cope via art. • PGCPS Mental Health Website • Mental Health 24/7 Series - "Find your Place, End the Stigma" Student Forum • Restorative Approaches - Circles • Student Government Association • Prince George's County Regional Association of Student Governments • Healing Circles - as advertised • Get to Go Website • Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 • Prince George's County Crisis Services (includes Mobile Crisis Team): 301-429-2185 • National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - Dial 9-8-8 • Maryland Call 2-1-1: or Text your zip code to 898-211 • Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line: Call 1-833-MD-8-Safe or Download the app



[PGCPS Mental Health Resource Guide](#)

For Additional Support through Student Services

Elizabeth L. Faison, Ph.D.

Associate Superintendent of Student Services

Elizabeth.Sessoms@pgcps.org

301-567-5702 ext 4554747

Tisa Holley, Ed.D.

Director of Student Services

Tisa.Holley@pgcps.org

301-567-5702 ext 46137

