

Assistant to Coordinator of Mental Health
Funding Source: Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan

Based on the increased requirements and directives from the state as outlined in SB 7026/7030, more assistance is needed for data collection of school-based mental health services as well as community-based mental health services and supports. The state now requires that any student referred for mental health screenings are assessed within 15 days, services initiated within 15 days of identification/screenings and community-based services initiated within 30 days of referral. To assist with the accurate accountability and follow-up, additional human resources are needed to maintain compliance of these requirements. Beginning September 30, 2019 and annually thereafter, the district must submit a report to DOE on its program outcomes and expenditures which requires accurate data collection and reporting on the number of students referred to and receiving school-based or community-based services and interventions.

In addition to these state requirements, all employees of our district must be trained in Youth Mental Health Awareness, which requires considerable preparation and management in not only our district professional development system, but the National Behavioral Council in which Youth Mental Health First Aid manages the Youth Mental Health Awareness requirement for the state. As an example of need for this support, for the 2019-20 school year, we currently have 44 Youth Mental Health Awareness trainings scheduled. The room, materials set up and data entry for each class requires much time and effort.

This newly requested position would play a vital role in ensuring that auditable requirements are met and assist with required trainings allowing the Coordinator of Mental Health to focus on coordination of mental health supports for students.