

School and Mental Health Priority Platform

Final Copy April 2024

With the ongoing rise in the needs of youth related to mental health, local School Superintendents and the Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services have come together to set forth an agreed upon set of priorities. These priorities lay a solid foundation between the two systems from which to build ongoing and lasting success for the youth of our community. It is the intent that for each priority, a strategic plan is developed with key stakeholders to ensure ongoing efforts are memorialized in a formal way to ensure efforts are sustained over time. The four priorities include the following:

Priority One: Mental Health Literacy for all Staff Employed by Our Local Schools

This priority is focused on identifying both content and process to ensure that systematically all staff are trained on the fundamentals of mental wellbeing including a base understanding of the impact of trauma and the signs and symptoms of distress and how to intervene.

Priority Two: The Development of a Core Set of Promotive/Protective Skills for Youth

Equip youth with the ability to address and respond to behaviors of risk. All students will be offered education on a core set of promotive/protective skills grounded in research with the highest likelihood of success.

Priority Three: The Completion of Resource Mapping

Joint resource mapping between the education and mental health system will be completed, outlined by tiers to ensure schools know the availability of services; how to access them and what is most appropriate for any given situation.

Priority Four: The Development of Joint Solutions/Responses to Tier Three Incidents

The mental health and education system will jointly identify and develop interventions that target tier three incidents to ensure the student has access to appropriate mental health interventions that will help them to succeed in an academic environment.