BPS Looking Forward

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Student Enrollment:

Total School Enrollment: **8250**
Students Qualifying for Special Education: **1845 or 22%**
MLL’s: **561**
Students attending Private or Public programs: **178**
Students attending In-District specialized programs: **240**

*enrollment data pulled May, 2024*
Acuity of Services Snapshot:

While there are several variables that could be linked to determine the acuity of services, these figures provide an example of frequency.

- 430 Risk Assessments 40% that resulted in 211 outreach
- 93 Calls to 911
Challenge #1: Providing a continuum of supports and services across all grade levels and schools bridging students and families to community based providers.

Proposal:

• Standardization of data base across the districts and real time funding solutions to address transiency and portability.
• Aftercare and transition services that are sustainable, skills based and flexible/portable.
• Increase funding for additional support services such as:
  • School based health centers with comprehensive services
  • Trained (licensed/certified) support staff
Policy Implications for Challenge #1:

- Develop a clearing house, by region, of approved/vetted service providers and update at least 1/4ly.
- Universal and accessible data collection for progress monitoring tx goals.
- Create pathways for Districts to collaborate with local and regional elected officials to address long term and sustainable funding solutions for SBHC, etc.
Challenge #2: Funding of Special Education and related services due to variability/unpredictability of costs.

Proposal

• Fulling funding excess costs to all districts.
• Create a tiered system of maximum daily rates based on acuity of student need.
• Establish a reserve fund of similarly funded programs which districts could access when funds are not fully expended *(leave no money on the table!)*
• Create a system to address variability of enrollment post budget adoption dates.
• Streamlining medicaid reimbursement for approved services.

Policy Implications

• Legislative guidance of a tiered fee structure of tuition and services provided to districts by APSEP which would allow districts to create a budget with predictable expenses.

HB 397
Policy Implications for Challenge #2:

• Legislative guidance for tiered tuition/fee structures agreed upon by APSEP’s.
• Legislative guidance and advocacy for timely/accelerated medicaid application, and reimbursement.
• Provide funding for administration of medicaid application and reimbursement process (dashboard and filing is an obstacle to full realization).
Challenge #3: Addressing the roadblocks schools and families experience when accessing behavioral health services.

Proposal:

• Empower credentialed school personnel to request transport of children in crisis to resources that can address the complex needs in the short and long term.
• Set aside allotted spots in programs similar to IICAPS or MST (DCF and JJC are allowed allotted spots).
• Comprehensive after care transitions after crisis or hospitalization.
Policy Implications for Challenge # 3

- Address regional disparities of resources including transportation for aftercare.
- All emergency departments would benefit from having emergency psychiatric supports for children on their respective staff.