

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Jay Affeldt, Executive Director of Student and Staff Support
Kristen Guetschow, Interim Assistant Director of Integrated Health

DATE: 5/06/21

SUBJECT: Grant of \$464,986 from Dane County Department of Human Services, pursuant to Board Policy #6177

Introduction: Dane County Department of Human Services is awarding a grant of \$464,986 to the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) through the K-12 Emotional Wellness and Mental Health Support Grant.

Issue: The proposed project, Mental Health Navigation and Support for 4K-12 Students (MHNS) aims to mitigate the potentially greater negative mental health impacts of COVID-19 on particular groups of Madison students and their families, specifically students and families of color and students and families whose primary language is Spanish.

Background: MHNS has an overarching goal to provide immediate, extended, personalized support, resource referral, and care coordination that is responsive to the mental health needs of about 975 MMSD 4K-12th grade students and families across MMSD's 50 schools. To meet this goal, grant funds will provide support for two 1.0 FTE Mental Health Navigators, a 1.0 FTE Mental Health Bilingual Resource Specialist, and related supports (appointment transportation for families, mileage for staff making COVID-appropriate home visits, translation/interpretation, culturally relevant books that focus on mental health resilience, coping, etc.). Staff will work directly with Student Support Teams to ensure that students who are facing mental health challenges are connected with the support services and interventions they need. These roles will (a) strengthen referral pathways to services provided by school and community providers, (b) facilitate community-based mental health resources, and (c) promote equity by removing barriers to needed resources. A critical component of the work of the Mental Health Navigators and the Mental Health Bilingual Resource Specialist will be to provide care coordination for families by facilitating effective collaboration between students, families, school, and community providers.

Analysis: Board Policy #6177 requires that the Superintendent or his/her designee review all grants taking into consideration the criteria listed in the Procedure for Board Policy #6177. It has been determined that the grant meets all of the criteria included in the Board of Education policy. No inequities are created. In fact, it will provide additional supports to students and families who are struggling with wellbeing and mental health issues, especially students and families of color and students and families whose primary language is Spanish. There is not a matching component to this grant. The time period during which this grant will be used is from summer 2021 to 12/31/22.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Education accept a grant of \$464,986 from the Dane County Department of Human Services to support the wellbeing and mental health of approximately 975 MMSD 4K-12th grade students and their families across MMSD's 50 schools.