

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

January 30, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Prince George's County Public Schools Twitter Message

Question

Ms. Jeanette Dixon stated that it would be interesting to know if they are doing anything different that is working. So many things impact student behaviors the most important being expectations and the relationship with the teacher/counselor/administrator and in a classroom having "routines" that allow students to know what to expect. I thought the comments at the end of the article ran the gamut but were interesting.

Response

Similar to Prince George's County Public Schools, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is implementing Restorative Justice in our schools that includes a training and support model for teachers, counselors and administrators. Our Restorative Justice team also provides parent/guardian workshops throughout the year.

In addition, we are in the process of developing a Physical, Social, and Psychological (PSP) framework to support student well-being in all schools. PSP work will include education and training for teachers, counselors, pupil personnel workers, psychologists, parent community coordinators, and English transition counselors; and education and support for students and their parents/guardians. As part of the PSP framework development process, various districts will be contacted and asked to share their strategies as well as information about their success and challenges. A number of districts in Maryland, including Prince George's County Public Schools, will be contacted to discuss their initiatives.

Furthermore, we have a team that meets bimonthly to review student discipline by school and to identify schools that need additional support through the offices of School Support and Improvement, Student and Family Support and Engagement, or Special Education. The team focuses on identifying schools with high rates of student suspensions, students experiencing recent upticks in suspensions, and students with multiple suspensions.

A companion group also is examining our suspension data as part of the Maryland State Department of Education's Reducing and Eliminating Disproportionate Impact Action Plan. This plan will address out-of-school suspension and expulsion data determined to have a disproportionate impact on students of color and students with disabilities.

For the past 10 years, Montgomery County Government agencies have provided MCPS parents/guardians in the John F. Kennedy and Watkins Mill clusters a multiagency team that supports the project and aims to remove parental and community-based obstacles to student success, such as addressing family poverty, poor access to healthcare, limited or lack of English language skills, and social and emotional issues, so that children may attend school ready to learn. Referrals are made for a range of concerns including family need for counseling, family legal issues, family financial needs, and family or student need for medical referral. School counselors contact parents/guardians to arrange a meeting to explain the Multi-Agency Team process and request consent to provide supports.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jonathan T. Brice, associate superintendent for student and family support and engagement, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, at 240-740-5630.

JRS:MVN:JTB:kdc

Copy to:
Executive Staff
Ms. Webb