

Increasing Mental Health Supports through Community Partnerships



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Poll Everywhere!



Questions to respond to....



Objectives for this session:

- 1. Understand the steps the school district took to align efforts locally and statewide to Kansas Can SEL initiative.**
 - 2. Identify interventions designed to increase student resilience and feelings of hope through appropriate services.**
 - 3. Share strategies to increase student attendance rates through access to mental health services and other community services.**
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Welcome to Emporia, Kansas!

Emporia Public Schools #USD253

- **4,600 Students**
 - **45% Hispanic**
 - **33% English Language Learners**
 - **62% Free & Reduced**
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Kansans Can Initiative

Dr. Randy Watson's Vision for Kansas

4 Pillars:

- **Kindergarten Readiness**
- **Post Secondary Success**
- **Social Emotional Growth**



Social Emotional Success Committee

Who needs to be involved?

- **Community, District, Law Enforcement, Local Mental Health Agency, School Personnel, Flint Hills Technical College, Emporia State University**

Where are we?

- **What is currently in place? What have we already tried?**

What information and data do we already have?


- **How will we measure this initiative locally?**

What do we want in place to support our students?

- **Mental health support in place for all students at all levels.**

Social Emotional Success Timeline

Discussion/Input Opportunities:

- **December 12th - 1st Meeting**
 - **January 18th - 2nd Meeting**
 - **January 24th - BOE Study Session**
 - **March 1st - 3rd Meeting**
 - **March 8th - Emporia Pre-K - 12 Administrators**
 - **April 13th - Affective Services**
 - **April 27th - Affective Services**
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Community Input & Perspectives

More was needed of the following:

- **Soft skills - eye contact, interview skills, interpersonal interactions**
- **Counseling - get students in services**
- **Prosocial interactions**
- **Modeling behavior - future, forward thinking needed**
 - **Students in need live next door to us - we want them to be successful community members**
 - **5 Keys to Social and Emotional Learning Success**

Research based: Gase (2014)




Culture Shift

- **Theoretical Perspective**
- **Whole Child Approach**
- **Collaborative Approach**
 - **Community, administrative, and stakeholder buy-in**
 - **Using experts in the field to facilitate discussion and options for opportunity**
 - **www.padlet.com/ksvision/secd**



Interventions

What are we doing to intervene with students?

- **Second Step (PK-8)**
 - **Capturing Kids Hearts (K-8)**
 - **Kansas University College and Career Competency Framework (high school only)**
 - **School-Based Mental Health @ all levels (PK-12)**
 - **Counselors Added- Ratio 1:250 (Current #s 1:450)**
 - **School Psychologists Added**
 - **Tertiary Support Intervention Team**
 - **Trauma Informed Training**
 - **Restorative Justice Program**
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Digging Deeper

Studying student & staff attendance

- Policy and procedures
- Uniform response from all buildings
- Work with parents
- Require parent meetings
- Hire Truancy Officer
- Track attendance more effectively
- Get students & staff excited to come to school!
- "I wish my teacher knew" assignment reveals kids' hardships

Partnerships Are Important


Communication between agencies on students

- **Release of Information forms - HIPPA considerations**
- **Transparency with Parents - we are all on the same team similar to a “wrap-around” process**
- **Updates on student progress**
- **Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) - what is in place and what needs improvement**

Research based: Powers, Wegmann, Blackman, Swick (2014)



Next Steps

- **Affective service providers**
 - **Innovation in schools to meet students' needs**
 - **Regular meetings with community agencies to increase communication and trust -**
 - **Establish common goals**
 - **Vocabulary, terms, parameters**
 - **Explore MDT**
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Questions?

The Champion

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Additional resources

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2HeZLuSYsOebnhyVm5xWVFWd2tDcUxpRFREajRpVGxFbDJ3/view?usp=sharing>

