

Who We Are

The Prince George's School Mental Health Initiative (PGSMHI) is a partnership that was formed between the Center for School Mental Health (CSMH)/ University of Maryland, Prince George's County Public Schools, and Maryland State Department of Education.

Our Purpose

- ◆ Implement a model of clinical and case management services that will help students with significant emotional and behavioral problems be successful in the least restrictive environment
- ◆ Enhance staff competency through on-going training and education
- ◆ Promote family-school involvement and partnership across the full continuum of services provided



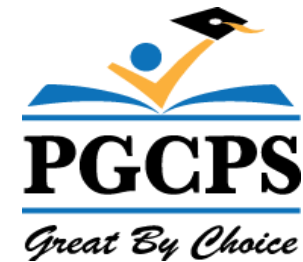
Prince George's School Mental Health Initiative

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Prince George's School Mental Health Initiative



**A partnership between Prince George's
County Public Schools, the Maryland State
Department of Education, and the University
of Maryland, Center for School Mental Health**

Benefits

- ◆ Students who previously needed specialized community-based care can be supported in their home school
- ◆ Participating students may demonstrate reduced suspensions and expulsions, improved attendance, and higher graduation rates
- ◆ Students may demonstrate improvements in their emotional and behavioral functioning and academic performance
- ◆ School staff and administrators receive additional support, consultation, and resources
- ◆ Increased collaboration between school staff, mental health professionals, families, and community agencies

Framework

- ◆ Developing supportive relationships with youth and effectively engaging families
- ◆ Decreasing risk factors and stressors affecting the student and family (e.g. food, health insurance, transportation, etc.)
- ◆ Enhancing strengths and protective factors in youth and their families through education and counseling
- ◆ Improving anger management skills
- ◆ Addressing past and current traumatic experiences to prevent psychiatric problems in young adulthood

Program Participants

- ◆ Appropriate candidates are students currently enrolled in ED Transition Programs or students at risk for entering non-public settings due to behavioral and/or emotional problems
- ◆ Students motivated to transition to their home school after making progress in non-public settings are also good candidates for the PGSMHI
- ◆ Referrals can be generated at IEP meetings, or through school, regional staff, and parent consultation

Program Components

- ◆ Needs assessment
- ◆ Family-based interventions and support
- ◆ Therapeutic services
- ◆ Collaboration with school and community agencies
- ◆ Crisis intervention services
- ◆ Case management
- ◆ A constant focus on quality, diverse stakeholder involvement, and collaboration with other child-serving systems

Services Provided

- ◆ Individual and group therapy
- ◆ Crisis intervention
- ◆ Family therapy and consultation
- ◆ Consultation with the school psychologist and IEP team
- ◆ Teacher and staff consultation
- ◆ Psychiatric consultation using advances in telemedicine technology
- ◆ Collaboration with local school system resources
- ◆ Professional development for school staff
- ◆ Family engagement activities
- ◆ Case management to connect students and families to community resources

