FY 26 Ohio Virtual Academy Student Wellness and Success Plan

Background from The Ohio Department of Education

Aligned with Ohio's Whole Child Framework, the Student Wellness Funds assist schools and districts, alongside community partners, to address the needs of the whole child by funding initiatives to support wraparound services for Ohio's students.

Recent updates to the requirements include spending at least 50% of the Student Wellness and Success Funds on physical and mental health services, collaborating with both a community mental health provider and another community partner, sharing the plan and any amendments within 30 days with a governing body and posting the plan to the school's website, reporting annually on spent funds, and spending funds by the end of the next fiscal year after they were received.

Using Data to Identify Critical Needs

During the 24-25 school year, 76 students were referred for critical mental health or hospitalization, 20 students were referred to OHVA's mental health partners Syntero, 1082 students were referred to small groups, and 13 referrals were made to the Cornerstone Grief Group. There were 109 mental health hospitalizations and 84 physical health hospitalizations. Ohio Virtual Academy also had 549 homeless students during the 24-25 school year. Students continue to struggle after the pandemic and need support from trained professionals. Additionally, our families continue to need resources to help them support students in their wellness.

Goals and Strategies

Our goal with this fund is to increase student wellness by leveraging counselors, wrap around services, and family engagement to support the whole child needs of our students. This aligns with our continuous improvement plan SMART goal dealing with School Climates and Supports: Safe and Healthy Schools.

Implementation Plan

In order to meet our goal, we are partnering with Syntero, a community-based mental health treatment provider, and Cornerstone of Hope, a nonprofit bereavement support center. Syntero will support Ohio Virtual Academy through additional resources such as content expertise, data sources, and joint planning. Cornerstone's therapy and counseling services will provide support group help and guidance on the plan.

Activities, Services, Programs and Strategies	Responsible Parties	Partners' Roles	Process Measures	Progress Monitoring	Benchmark Goals (short term)	Desired Outcomes (long term)
Initiative 1: Services for students experiencing homelessness	The Crisis Support Team will identify students and their needs and provide access to essentials such as clothing and hygiene products	Syntero will offer Tier 2 and 3 support as needed	Crisis Support Team will track resources and note any follow up needs including collaboration with local agencies or organizations	Crisis Support Team track referrals, resources, and student data	Students have dedicated crisis team who provides them with needed assistance	Students develop positive relationships with caring adults who can provide necessary resources
Initiative 2: Syntero clinician 2 days per week	Counselors will refer students who need additional services and the Crisis Support Manager will review and refer	Syntero will offer counseling and supports to referred students	Syntero will track attendance and keep clinical notes including any needed follow up	Track referrals, interventions, followup	Students have a safe space to talk to counselors and receive resources during the school day and without	Students have wrap around services that provide tier 2 and 3 support

					the need of insurance	
	to Syntero clinician; ongoing coordination meetings				the need of insurance	
Initiative 3: Salaries for school counselors supporting student health	K-12 school counselors will support students and their mental health needs	Syntero will offer Tier 2 and 3 support as needed with referrals; Cornerstone will provide Tier 2 and 3 support as needed with referrals	Counselors provide multiple resources throughout the school year to support both students' academic and social-emotional growth	Counselors and the Crisis Support Team track referrals, resources, and student data	Students have a dedicated counselor who provides them with needed assistance	Students develop positive relationships with caring adults who can provide necessary resources
Initiative 4: Telehealth school nurse	A school nurse has been added to the staff to provide health services to students and prevention and wellness education to students and families	Syntero will have the opportunity to consult with the school nurse on students who are referred	Providing student telehealth services and referrals, prevention education, wellness programs	Track student referrals, coordination with other entities, feedback surveys	Providing school health services for students remotely; educating staff, students, parents, and the community partners on prevention strategies and wellness programs	Students have a dedicated medical professional to promote student physical wellness and equity of care
Initiative 5: Salaries for student advisors	school advisors will provide student and family support services	Syntero will have the opportunity to consult with advisors as needed as another layer of wraparound services	Advisors are a first point of contact for students and families providing support services and referrals as needed	Connections calls, attendance and engagement tracking, track academic progress, feedback surveys	Provide student support and referrals when necessary	Students and families have a dedicated first point of contact to provide support services and engage students and families throughout the school year
Initiative 6: Salaries for physical education teachers	School physical education teachers who prioritize students' physical health needs	Syntero will have the opportunity to consult with the teachers on students who are referred	Providing student physical health and prevention education as well as wellness programs while in a safe and supportive virtual classroom	Track student progress and engagement	Provide student support and referrals when necessary while building relationships and fostering self-regulation	Students develop positive relationships with caring adults who can provide necessary resources
Initiative 7: Character Strong prevention training and curriculum	Team of staff who are trained on Character Strong	Syntero will have the opportunity to review the training and curriculum to better understand student supports	Providing multi-tiered evidence-based prevention curriculum to support the whole child with increased engagement, improved well-being, and a sense of belonging	Track student attendance and engagement	Providing students with curriculum that supports the whole child	Students have multi-tiered supports that improve behavior, increases safety, and supports mental health