

From: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Poudre School District  
Date: March 29, 2022

On Thursday March 24, 2022, the PSD Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was joined by Ty Hirschert for a presentation on the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan being developed for the District. We would like to offer ideas to be included and actionable next steps.

The following reflects the thoughts and considerations for students with disabilities in relation to improving the PSD Comprehensive Mental Health Plan from SEAC parents, staff, and community members:

- 1) Consider choosing 1 curriculum that bridges the SEL from preschool to Young Adults, providing consistency for students across schools and a continuous building of skills into adulthood.
- 2) Create a long-term plan and sustained focus that addresses:
  - a. Early PK-12 education, peer supports embedded into our culture (how we do business) that supports relationships and social skills
  - b. District shift towards PD models for all levels (not site based) that are required and not opt- in
  - c. Staff support of their own mental health and balance
- 3) Develop a process for collaboration and outreach in working with our community partners.
- 4) Seek to develop and recruit Spanish speaking and culturally responsive providers.
- 5) Continued development of the plan to support families and parents in growing their skills to supports their children.
- 6) Assemble a stakeholder group to develop a funding plan or option that gets PSD closer to the National Level of recommended mental health supports per student.
- 7) It is recommended that all students are provided the opportunity to interact with the SEL curriculum in a general education setting, not when students are pulled out of class for IEP needs. We acknowledge that students with disabilities may need additional follow up and support to engage with this content and material and that can be provided in a smaller more structured setting after being presented in general education first.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this very important aspect of school for all students including those with disabilities. We appreciate the topic being a discussion point for the district and including the focus of all students from our Preschool Programs to Transition Services. We also support the professional development and common language you are giving every staff member to feel comfortable having the conversation.

Sincerely, PSD SEAC

CC: Ty Hirschert, Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator for Student Services

Darcie Votipka, Interim Director of Student Services

Marlena Gross-Taylor, Chief Equity and Academic Officer

Sarah Belleau, Director of Integrated Services

PSD SEAC Members