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#### SPECIAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC VISION



**FEBRUARY 2020** 

# **Special Education**

**Strategic Vision** 

Doreen Babis Director of Special Services

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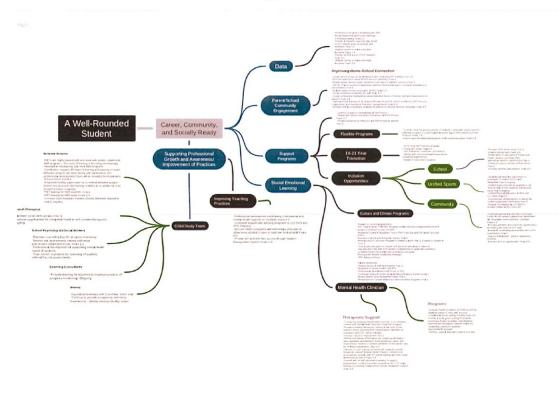




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# **Strategic Vision**



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# A Well Rounded Student: Career, Community, Socially Ready



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## **Programs**

#### Flexible Programs

- · Consistent review of need for additional in- district programs-Ongoing
- To better meet the growing needs of students, continually assess need for a non-traditional, flexible program at SHS and/or LCJSMS Program-Years 2-3
- Assess need for additional programs at the elementary level-Years 2-5
- Open opportunities for tuition students

#### 18-21 Year Old Transition

- Expand 18-21 Transition program to be housed at Community Center .5 Teacher-Year 2
- Oversight by SLE/Transition Coordinator-Year 2
- Expand partnerships with local businesses for pre-vocational experience-Ongoing

#### **Support Programs**

- Continue to improve 504 Process and provide PD for staff-Ongoing
- Partner with school counselors and principals to improve I & RS Process- Years 2-3

## **Inclusion Opportunities**

- Expand Elective Opportunities; Retail/Finance (school store), Foods, **Health-Ongoing**
- Unified Sports Soccer, Leadership, Unified Club, A-3 Alliance, PE- Years 1-3
- Community Opportunities Community Center, Grace's Refrigerator, Local **Business Partnerships-Ongoing**

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# **Improving Home-School Connection**



#### COMMUNICATION

To increase awareness about the IEP process, create parent surveys to be distributed after conducting IEP meetings-Year 2

Review parent survey results. Determine next steps to address responses-Years 3-5

\*IEP- Individual Education Plan



#### **NEWSLETTERS**

Create a wellness newsletter for staff-Years 1-2

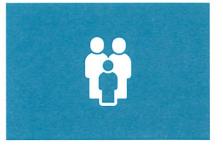
Create a newsletter highlighting special education topics of interest and upcoming events for parents-Years 3-5



#### **WEBINARS**

Parent Resources on Special Services webpage

Webinar based trainings to be shared with parents and the school community- Years 2-5



#### SEPAC

Survey parents to determine volunteer interest and ways to increase involvement and attendance at presentations-Year 1

Analyze survey results-restructure SEPAC-Years 2-3

\*SEPAC- Special Education Parent Advisory Council

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## **Supporting Professional Growth**

· Supporting Teaching Practices

Behavioral and mental health - Years 2-3

Assess mentor programs across district- Years 2-5

Provide IEP and 504 Plan access through the Student Management System-Years 2-3

Behavior Analysts

Support ABA teacher training of Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) -Year 1
RBT training for ABA aides-Years 2-5

In-house Restraint Trainers- Quality Behavior Supports (QBS)- Year 1-ongoing

School Psychologists/Social Workers

Maintain counseling logs for progress monitoring-ongoing

Monitor risk assessments-review and revise policies/procedures/protocols
-Years 1-2

Professional development for supporting increased mental health needs of students-Years 1-3

Train school counselors for screening of students referred for risk assessments-Years 1-2

Learning Consultants

Provide training for teachers to improve practice of progress monitoring and IEP writing -Ongoing

Speech Therapists

Facilitate social skills groups - ongoing

Increase opportunities for integrated model in self-contained programs-Ongoing

Research other service models implemented in other districts -Years 1-2

Interns

Expand partnerships with universities such as Columbia, Seton Hall, Montclair University-Years 1-2

Continue to provide exceptional internship experiences - Quality training=Quality output -Ongoing

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#### **Data**

Emphasis on progress monitoring with staff during department and faculty meeting

Continued training- Year 1-2

Review Dynamic Learning Map (DLM) scores to identify areas of strength and weakness-Year 2

Analyze scores to make curriculum decisions-Years 2-5

**Progress Monitoring** 

Data Collection (benchmarks, I XL)

**Dynamic Learning Map** 

**NJ SLA** 

Streamline data collection process to ensure collection of clean data-Years 1-2

Analysis of data to identify potential areas of need-Years 2-3 Review NJSLA scores of IEP Students- Year 2

Analyze scores to make curriculum decisions-Years 2-5

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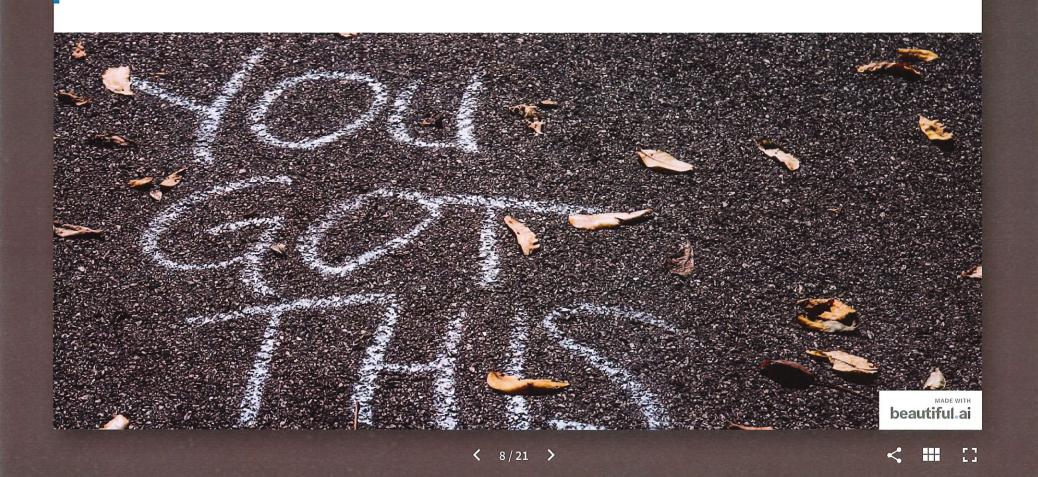


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# **Social and Emotional Learning**



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## **Culture and Climate**

- \*Evaluate current programs
- \*Conduct needs assessment
- \*Continued collaboration with school counselors and principals
- \*Ensure staff and students are supported



- K-5
  - THRIVE
  - Implement Zones of Regulation Pilot in 1st and 2nd grade- Year 1
  - Increase to 3rd grade-Year 2
  - Expand Keys to Success Program to all Grade 5 at Washington and Franklin
  - Expand to Grade 5 at LH, BES, and JES-Year 2
  - Expand Keys to Success to Grades 4 Year 2
- LCJSMS:
  - Revision of the middle school advisory curriculum
- Increase of the number of advisory meetings
- SHS
- Provide professional development (restorative practices, mindfulness techniques, providing mental health/behavioral support)- Ongoing
- Advisory

#### District

Parent Workshops

Climate Survey of staff and students -Year 2

Response to survey results -Year 3-5

Professional Development with focus on SEL- Years 2-5

Continued review of current programming and areas of improvement -Ongoing

Review district crisis management plan -Year 2

Review district's suicide awareness and prevention programs- Year 2

Community

Engage community members in supporting social and emotional needs of our students -Years 2-5

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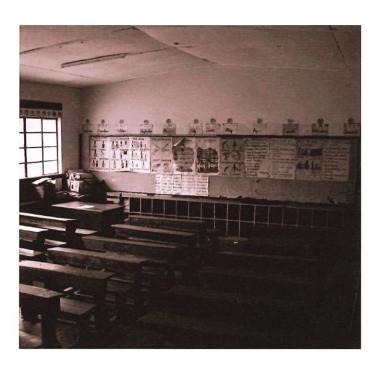




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# A growing number of our students are struggling and are not fully accessing their education....



- School Avoidance
- Depression and Anxiety
- Aggressive Behaviors

- Suicidal Ideations
- Self-Harm
- Eating Disorders

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#### What does this look like in Summit?

We are seeing an increase from last year in the number of students faced with serious mental health issues as well as an increase in the intensity of problematic behaviors.

#### 2019-20 School Year

- Many students have been admitted for intense in or out patient hospitalizations so far this year
- Several students are on home instruction for mental health related issues
- We currently have students placed in out of district therapeutic programs
- Several students on our radar as possibly needing a higher level of care
- Several risk assessments completed by our school psychologists/social workers
- Many sent out for additional evaluations

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## We are charged with educating ALL students



- The safety and well-being of one student impacts the entire learning environment
- Our teachers, school counselors, CST, nurses and principals are feeling the effects: Students in crisis need an intense level of support







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#### 2019-20 District Goal

Focus Area 2:

Provide an environment for students and teachers to cultivate a shared love of learning by supporting creativity and inspiration, and dedication in all phases of the educational journey

- Goals: Social Emotional Learning with a focus on stress management and self-management (coping skills);
- Evaluate current practices, research new practices, and implement a district-wide social and emotional plan of action that allows all staff to meet the needs of our students-with a focus on stress management and self-management (coping skills)





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# New Jersey School Boards Association Building a Foundation for Hope



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16%

of high school students surveyed in the U.S. reported seriously considering suicide

20%

20% of teens are diagnosed with a mental health disorder

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# Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24

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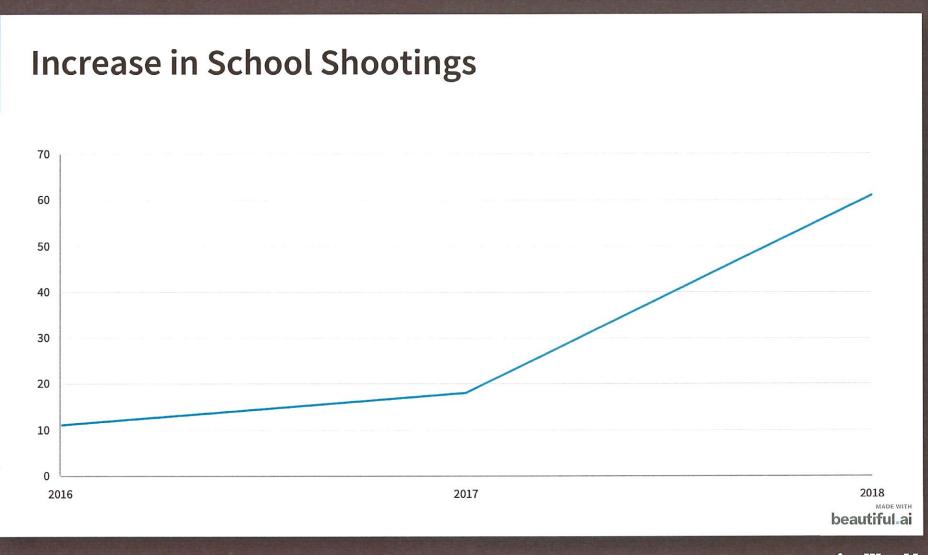






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# Social-Emotional Learning Recommendations -NJ SBA Task Force

Teach Social-Emotional Learning Competencies in every course

- · Programs should be a district priority
- · Teach resiliency, coping skills, stress management

Partner with state and local government, community organizations and law enforcement

- · Have experts address the board
- Consult with neighboring districts

Each child needs to have a trusting relationship with at least one adult in school

.

Support mental health instruction for K-12 students as part of district's health curriculum

Review curriculum, revise as needed Year 2

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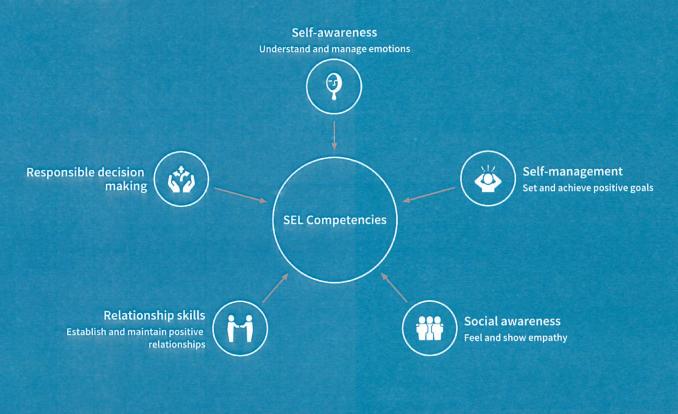




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# Social and Emotional Learning Competencies



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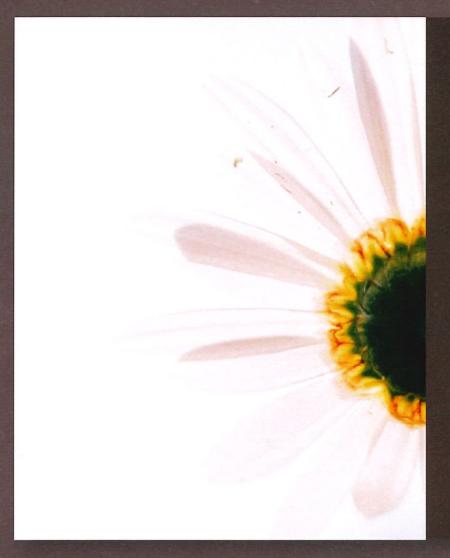






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## Mental Health Clinician

Provide increased therapeutic support to the most at risk students through co-located services within the school (create referral form with criteria)

Therapeutic support to include family therapy, complete risk assessments, provide staff PD, parent training and other needs determined by district-Year 2

Monitor and assess effectiveness by analyzing attendance rates, academic achievement, home instruction cases, risk assessments, number of students admitted for therapeutic care, OOD placements- Year 2-5

\*Evaluate cost benefit of consulting with a psychiatrist (weekly) to support programming, conduct psychiatric evaluations for CST, and make referrals for students needing more intense therapeutic support- Years 3-5

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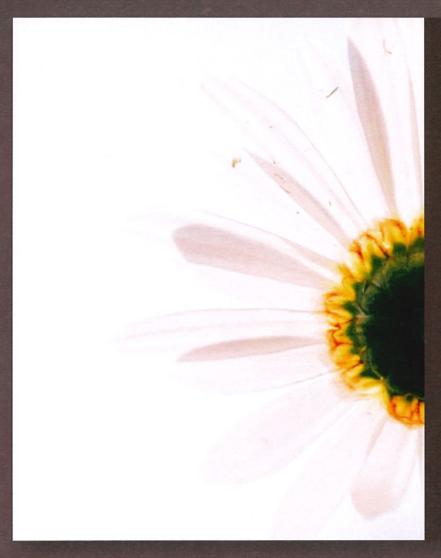






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## **Benefits**

Meet the needs of most at-risk students

Proactive vs reactive

Minimize need for OOD placements

Improve attendance rates by addressing school avoidance/refusal cases

Decrease number of students on home instruction

Decrease number of students sent out for clearance after screening

Fewer students admitted for therapeutic care

Ongoing professional development for staff in

**Parent Workshops** 

Family support



