



City Council, Safety Committee Session

Youth Violence and Economic
Hardship Prevention Programming

May 22, 2024

Introductions and Purpose of Our Time

Ground in the DPS approach to Youth Violence Prevention by discussing an overview of DPS programming that supports:

- Prevention, including Economic Hardship Prevention
- Behavioral Health continuum of services
- Wraparound supports for students and families



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Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement (FACE)



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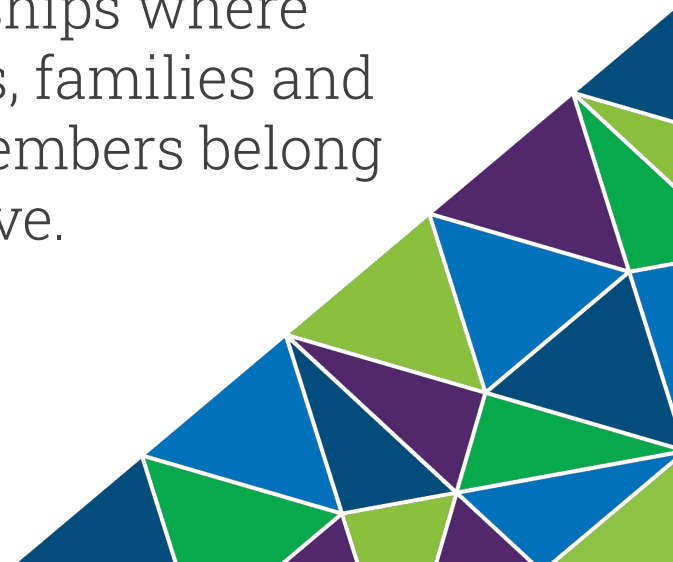
Director of Mental Health

Our Vision

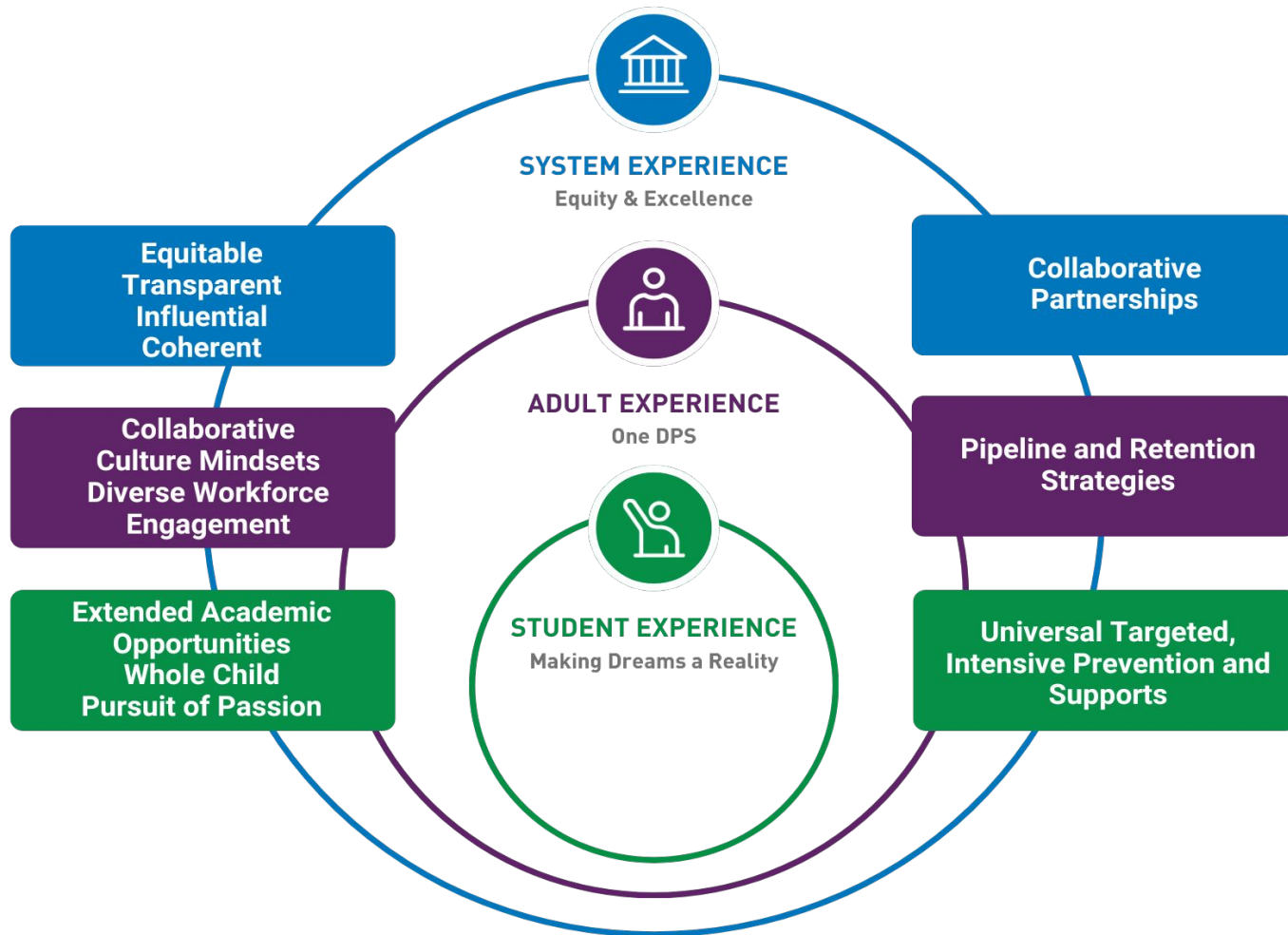
Every
Learner
Thrives

Our Mission

Educational equity is our collective responsibility. We prepare students for career, college and life. We create conditions and partnerships where students, families and team members belong and thrive.



The DPS Experience



Our Approach: Grounded in Resiliency Theory

A Strengths-Based Approach to Practice with Children and Youth

- Protective factors- focus on building the characteristics, relationships and experiences that may decrease the risk of experiencing or perpetuating youth violence
- How our approach to support students holistically – economic mobility, TIP, mental health, etc → youth violence prevention
- Connection to our DPS Strategic Roadmap – the DPS Experience and our Accelerated Trajectory – we support all student with an emphasis on historically underserved student populations (including newly arrived students, students experiencing homelessness, justice-engaged youth, etc.)

Accelerate the growth trajectory for marginalized students and prioritize them and their communities in our culture and decision-making



Tiered Approach to Building and Promoting Resilience

Intensive Supports

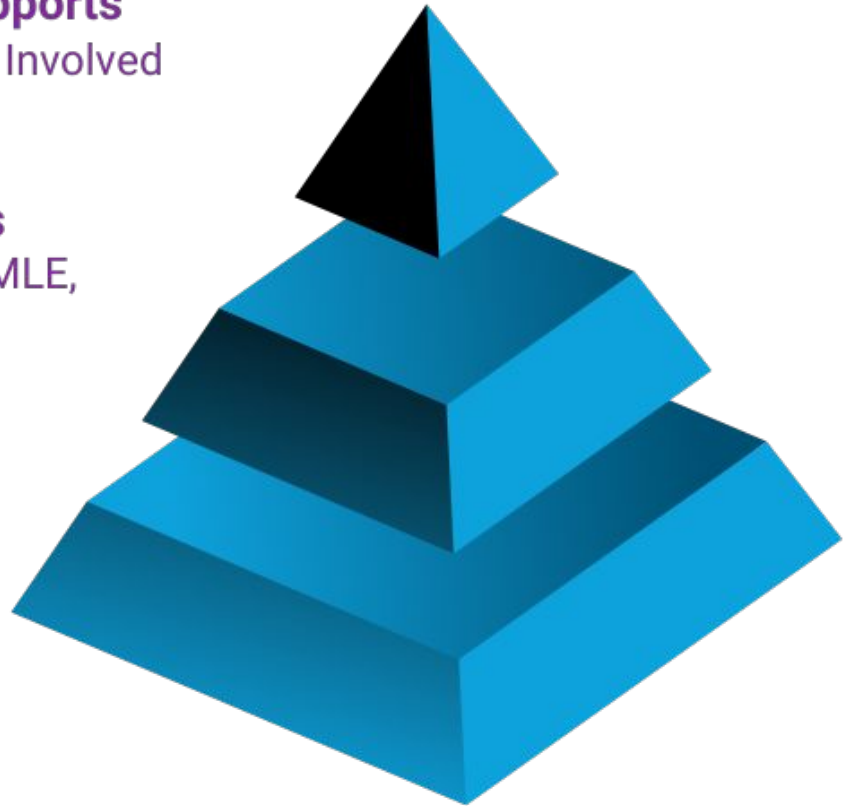
Juvenile Court Involved
Youth

Targeted Supports

Migrant, Homeless, MLE,
Risks Identified

Universal Supports

Prevention across all
systems



Partnerships are Essential



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Thank You

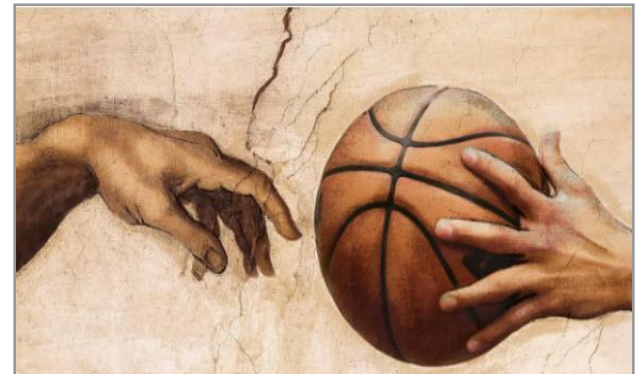


APPENDIX

Youth Violence Prevention in DPS

Universal Supports for Prevention: Continued focus on programming that builds and increases protective factors for students.

Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Tier 1 Instruction
Comprehensive Health Education
Trauma Informed Practices
Transformative Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in all schools
Universal Mental Health Screening
Bully Prevention
Positive Behavior Supports
School Culture Plans
Universal Attendance approaches
Family and Community Engagement
Community partnerships to support enrichment activities
Emergency Management Response Planning
School Safety audits



Trauma-Informed Restorative Practices Program and Services

An Integrated, School-Wide Approach

The Trauma-Informed Restorative Practices Initiatives includes:

1. Professional development and coaching support across all 207 district schools.
2. Implementation support of trauma-Informed restorative practices.
3. Integration of PBIS, targeted strategies for equity, and social emotional learning.
4. Engaging parents and families around the use of school & community restorative best practices.
5. Engaging youth leadership in restorative practices through the peer Youth Justices Alliance.

Youth Violence Prevention in DPS

Targeted Supports for Prevention: Focused on intentional intervention and disruption of Youth Violence

Robust Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Supporting Nonsuicidal Self-Injury

Robust Threat Response System

Human Trafficking Prevention and Intervention

District Crisis Response and Recovery

Interventions that include college and career success discussions



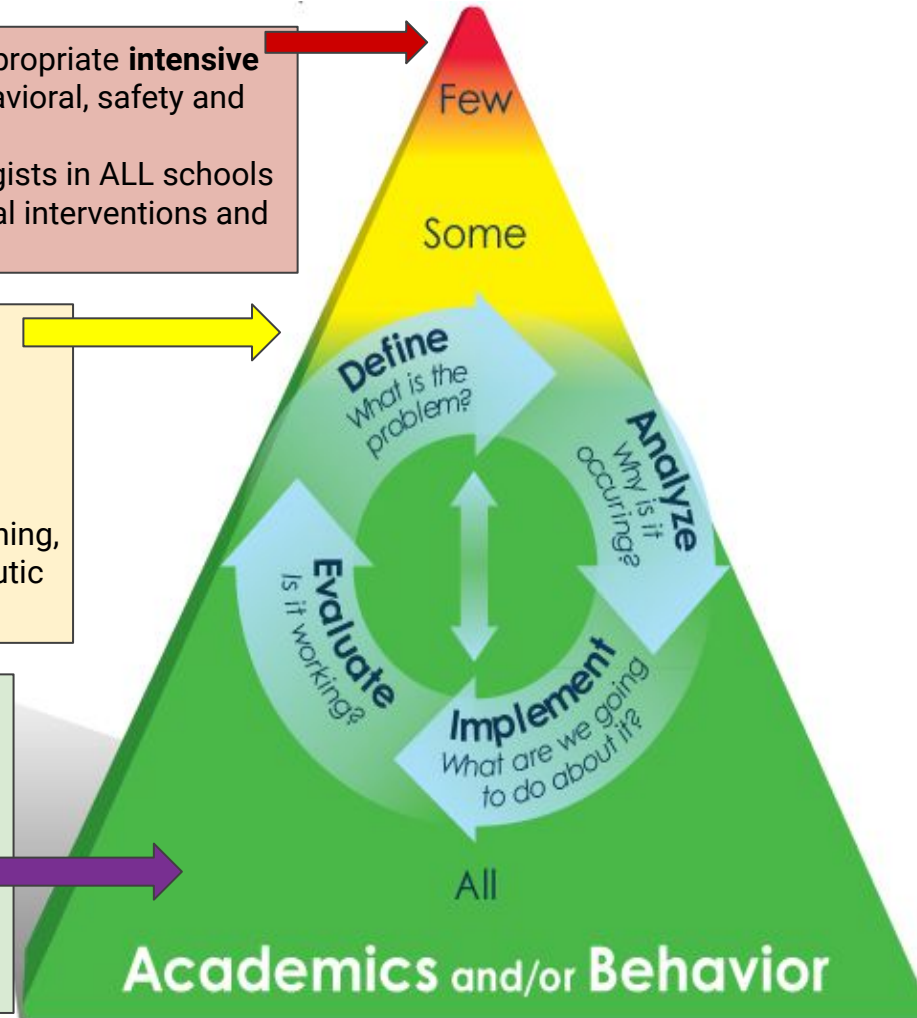
Department of Mental Health

Proactive approach to supporting students mental wellness, health and behavioral health needs aligned to the CDC's recommendations.

- Assess individual student needs to plan and deliver appropriate **intensive** interventions/iplans of support (social, emotional, behavioral, safety and cognitive based).
- Trained school social workers and/or school psychologists in ALL schools provide psychosocial skills training, cognitive behavioral interventions and other therapeutic targeted interventions.

- Assess student/group needs to plan and deliver appropriate **targeted** interventions/iplans of support (social, emotional, behavioral, safety and cognitive based).
- Trained school social workers and/or school psychologists in ALL provide psychosocial skills training, cognitive behavioral interventions and other therapeutic targeted interventions.

- Increase students' Mental Health Literacy, promote social, emotional and behavioral learning for all students (including suicide prevention, human trafficking, substance prevention).
- Screen all eligible students for risk of having or developing mental health challenges.
- Enhance connectedness among students, staff, families and community.



Supporting Justice Engaged Youth



- Juvenile Court Liaisons supporting our Pathways Schools
- Case management technology systems to support coordination
- Youth Violence Prevention

Substance Use Prevention in DPS

Teaching Evidence-Based Prevention Programs to increase knowledge and promote healthy behaviors.



Youth Violence Working Groups

Work Group Name & Link To Notes	Summary of Focus
Case Mgmt for System Involved Youth	Pushing forward policy changes that will prevent youth from falling through system cracks and enhancing data systems to sustain those changes
School Mindsets & Related Supports	Incorporate culturally responsive preventative supports consistently and equitably in DPS schools in the areas of restorative justice practices, trauma-informed mindsets, and social emotional learning (SEL)
Youth Resiliency	Bring YVP lens to well established, universal areas of focus: career development and out of school time
Wrap-Around Supports	Coordinate distribution of city and community resources through school system to address the impact of poverty
Mental Health Talent Pipeline	Cultivate a talent pool of mental health professionals who have lived experiences similar to those of our students and can speak their native languages

Denver Youth Employment Program

Workforce Development and Career Exposure

- Provides youth access to workforce development, career exposure, and opportunities to further their individual passions and goals through foundational work experience opportunities with local organizations, businesses and other high growth industries.
- Over the last 4 years, **\$1,464,032.80** in wages were earned by **1,028** youth from Denver's low income and high violence communities.



Engagement and Career Opportunities

Student Opportunities

- Exploration of student interests and opportunities available to students.
- Includes learning about work, learning through work, and learning at work.
- Engage in an individual plan as a graduation requirement.

Systems Opportunities

- Meaningful Career Conversation training for staff.
- Career and College Coursework offered at school and outside of school.
- District-wide events for students to engage in high interest opportunities.

Build Financial
Confidence

*Better
Decision-Making*

Reduced Crime
Rates

**Economic
Stability**

Informed Choices

Goal Setting

**The IMPACT
of Financial
Literacy**

Role Models

Access to
Resources

**Real-Life
Application**

*Strengthen
Community*

Financial Stress
Reduction

**Peer
Influence**

Federal Programs

Foster Care & Military Connected

- Identification through DHS - Best Interest Determination (BID) meetings.
- Immediate enrollment
- Transportation, free lunch, waived fees
- Partnership with Case Workers
- School Visits - students/staff
 - Attendance/academic progress
 - IEP and SEL check-ins
 - Mentorship and advocacy

Migrant Education Program

- Provide services to eligible students identified by Metro Migrant Education Program (CDE).
- School Visits - students/staff
 - Attendance/academic progress
 - IEP and reading supports
 - Mentorship and advocacy
 - Health resource/referrals
 - College and scholarship applications

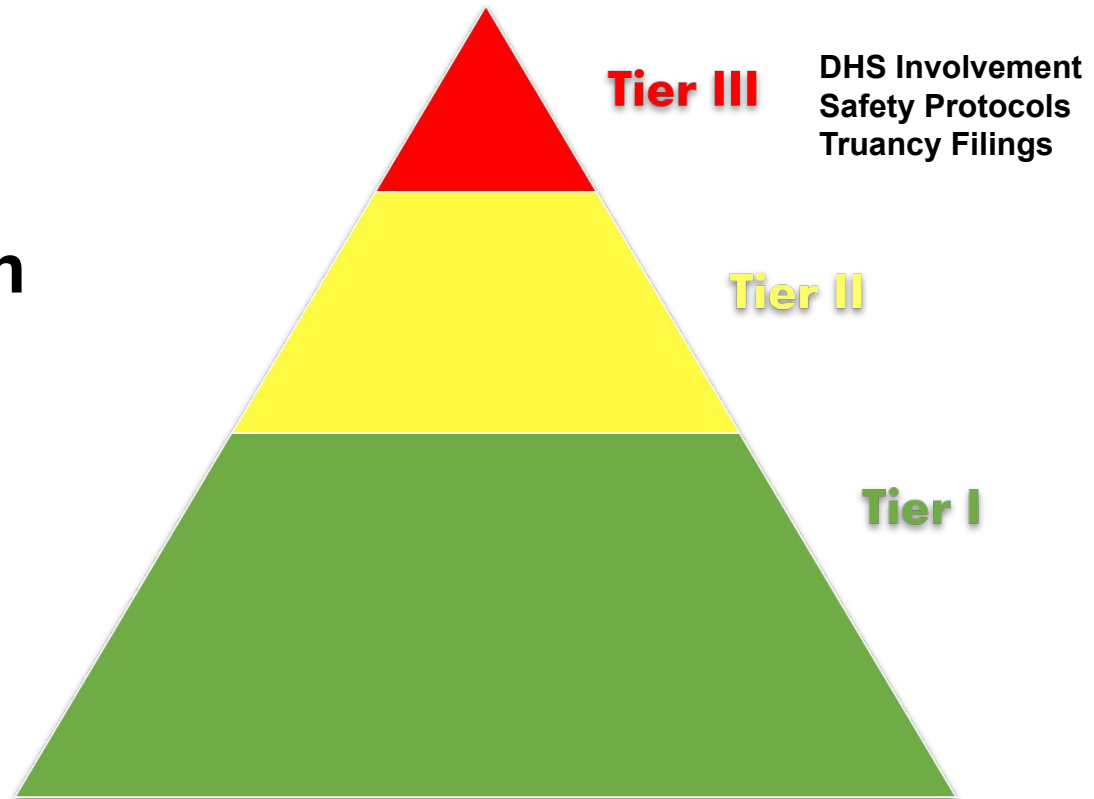
Homeless Education Network

- McKinney-Vento Identification
- Immediate Enrollment
- Transportation, proof of address, free lunch, waived fees
- Remove barriers to education
- Attendance check-ins
- Shelter Visits
- School Visits - staff/family supports
- Resources and referrals
 - Housing
 - Health (Medical/Dental)
 - Medicaid
 - Other

FACE Family Connect

Through a multi-generational theoretical framework that focuses on addressing the needs of both the child and the adults in their lives together, voluntary services are intended to support families in connecting with resources that enhance family stability and improve educational outcomes for their children.

Tiers of Family Support/Intervention



Multilingual Education (MLE)

District Advisory Council: Promotes academic partnerships and leadership to support families' to be their child's best first advocate at both the school and district level.

New Arrival's Toolkit: Resources for Principals and Teachers to share Wrap Around Services and Denver Outreach Programs, information on climate, safety and youth violence prevention.



Community Hubs

The Denver Public Schools Community Hubs are community resource center connecting students, families and the greater community with services to maximize family stability and increase academic success. All services are at no cost and open to DPS parents and community members.

- Workforce development (Job placement, interview preparation, resume building & workforce training)
- Basic needs assistance
- Social emotional supports and mental health services
- ESL classes for adults level 1-4
- Language services
- Newcomer and New-to-Country supports from MLE Family Liaisons
- Childcare during classes
- GED classes
- Citizenship preparation
- Early literacy classes
- DPS Hiring pipeline
- Computer/technology support
- Parenting classes
- Financial literacy