



BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Dan A. Sims, Superintendent

ACTION MEMORANDUM

To: Bibb County Board of Education, Dr. Dan A. Sims, Superintendent
From: Jamie Cassady, Assistant Superintendent of Student Affairs
Tajalyn Woodruff, Project AWARE Coordinator
Subject: School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Services Program

Summary

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools (OSSS) has awarded the School Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) Grant to the Bibb County School District (BCSD) for the next five years (1/1/2025 – 12/31/2029). This competitive grant will provide a total of \$12,848,370 in funding to address student mental health needs through the recruitment, training, and retention of a skilled workforce of Mental health Service Providers (MHSPs) and support staff.

Background

On October 17, 2024, Bibb County School District received the notification of grant award from the United States Department of Education for the School-Based Mental Health Services Program in the amount of \$2,569,674 each year for the next five years. This program is a federal competitive grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number credentialed school-based mental health providers employed by the school district. The grant aims to employ, train, and support a team of mental health service providers who will work directly with school counselors, school social workers, and administrators to promote student social emotional well-being and address student mental health concerns. The grant requires 25% non-Federal matching funds which will be attributed to in-kind contributions such as supervision (i.e. school psychologists), school staff time devoted to mental health referrals, etc., and other non-monetary support provided to the project.

This new program will increase and expand the services, partnerships, and resources that have been established within the school district under the current Project AWARE (SAMHSA) grant (framework for mental health promotion through outreach, screening, training, and systems change). (The Project AWARE grant ends September 30, 2025.) The grant budget will support the following: project director (1), program coordinator (1), program support specialist (1), mental health support counselors (8), school psychologists (2), a robust training and retention program for MHSPs, student-focused resources, etc.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Bibb County Board of Education approves the #Built4Bibb School-Based Mental Health Services Program Grant that will be implemented through December 31, 2029.

Superintendent's Comments and Approval

<u>Superintendent's Comments</u>	Approve/Disapprove
Dr. Dan A. Sims	Approved