

# Consolidated Data Report Update

*Presented by Center for Safer Schools  
Executive Director Karen W. Fairley  
and Deputy State Superintendent  
Dr. Jerry Oates*

# Recommendations for Improving School Climate and Culture

- Employ qualified professionals to offer cultural sensitivity and cultural awareness training to school staff and employees.
- Offer trauma-informed care training to school staff and employees.
- Implement a statewide discipline matrix.
- Include school resource officers in positive interaction, not just classroom behavior management and situations of arrest or other punitive measures.

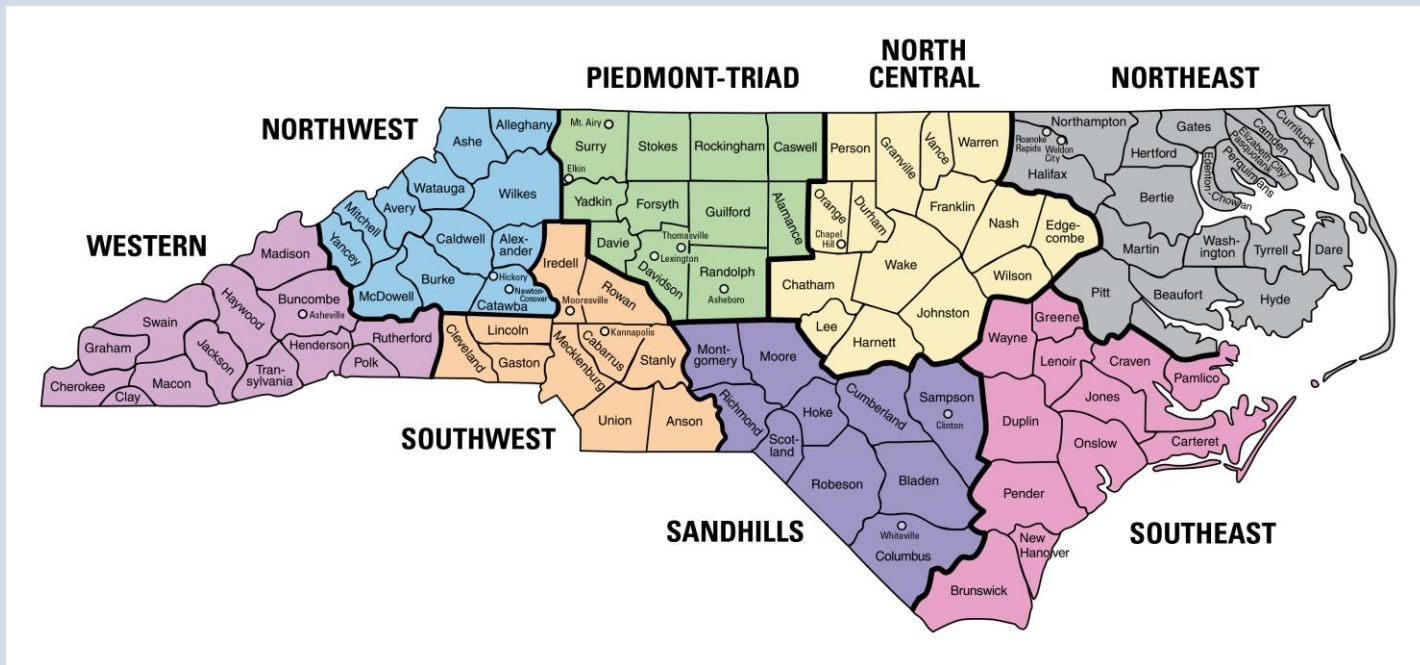
**Employ qualified professionals  
to offer cultural sensitivity and  
cultural awareness training**

# Steps Taken

- The Center for Safer Schools is in the process of hiring a parent/community engagement administrator to work with parents and communities and serve as a parent/community resource.

# Future Plans

- This administrator will be supported by an upcoming committee composed of 24 parents.
  - One parent from each of our eight regions will be from charter schools; two from each region will be from school districts.



# Future Plans

- The CFSS is in the process of working with the Justice Academy and Samarcand Training Academy to enhance cultural sensitivity and awareness training to school resource officers as a request from the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice.
- Pending legislation, the CFSS plans to hire a Director of Mental Health, along with three mental health professionals to focus on school safety.

# District/School Perspective

- Acknowledge mental health of students to maintain safer schools and provide support to existing mental health professionals within districts.
  - Provide support to school psychologists, behavioral specialists and school counselors as they work with students who suffer from mental health issues.
- Offer more parental input through partnership with the parent/community engagement administrator and the committee.
  - Deliver regional support specific to area needs.

# Offer trauma-informed care training to school staff



# Steps Taken

- The CFSS offers Behavioral Threat Assessment training quarterly.
  - Over 1,000 school staff trained to date.
- We will offer Trauma-Informed Care training during the summer, including at the RISE Back to School Safety Summit July 31-Aug. 2 in Gaston County.
- We will have a college intern to work on Trauma-Informed Care this summer.

# Steps Taken

- The Reunification Training conducted by CFSS covers trauma before, during and after reunification.
- Human Trafficking for School-Based Professionals training will be held during the summer.
  - Ensure trauma-informed intervention and response is part of the training.

# Steps Taken

- Online “mini-RISE” sessions
  - Behavioral Threat Assessment (March 9)
  - Supporting Student Mental Health (March 23)
  - Bullying Prevention (April 6)
  - Trauma Informed School Safety (April 20)

# District/School Perspective

- Behavioral Threat Assessment
  - Counselors and school administrators conduct these assessments each time threats are made against students, the school or in cases of self-harm.
- Trauma-Informed Care Training
  - The effects of any trauma cannot be diminished. For some, the effects of trauma become a lifelong battle. In order for students to reach their full potential, addressing the effects of trauma must be prioritized.

# Implement a statewide discipline matrix

# Steps Taken

- We are meeting with our Multi-Disciplinary Team to assist with a statewide discipline matrix.
- CFSS has secured an intern to work on the initiative of developing a discipline matrix.

# District/School Perspective

- In order to truly address student discipline, courageous conversations must be held in districts and charter schools.
  - Questions must be asked about disparities in the administering of discipline.
  - Subjectivity in what is a disciplinary offense must be discussed.
  - De-escalation training must be provided to school staff regularly.
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a K-12 opportunity to decrease discipline.

**Include school resource officers in positive interaction**



# Steps Taken

- The CFSS encourages school resource officers to have a positive presence at schools they serve by providing learning opportunities, coaching, working with the school community at afterschool events, etc.
- The Educating Kids About Gun and Gang Violence (EKG<sup>2</sup>) program (currently in the pilot stage) will be implemented in the fall.
- A mini-RISE session was held for EKG<sup>2</sup>, which included discussion on the role of SROs.



# Future Plans

- Senate Bill 727 (currently being considered) will allow the CFSS to offer EKG<sup>2</sup> statewide in grades 7 and 9.
- We will train law enforcement in EKG<sup>2</sup> over the summer, including at the RISE conference July 31-Aug. 2 in Gaston County.

# District/School Perspective

- Mitigate negative student and parent perception of SROs.
  - Partner with local sheriffs to address parents at district functions regarding the role of SROs.
  - Ensure SROs are not handling “routine” disciplinary issues.
  - Treat SROs as members of the school community — not as outsiders.

# Contact me



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