

Implementation Spotlight

Harrison 2 School District



COLORADO
Department of Education

Dropout Prevention Strategy: Counseling the Whole Child

Develop data-driven, systemic school counseling programs and connections to intensive support to encourage students in meeting academic, career, and personal development goals.

Program Description

Harrison 2 School District opened the Student Success Center (SSC) that supports Sierra and Harrison High School. This has been funded through CDE's EARSS grant. Administrators refer students who are showing signs of risk related to behavior as an alternative to suspension. Students work one-on-one or in small groups with specialists who are trained in restorative practices, trauma-informed care, and collaborative problem-solving. Students spend anywhere from a half day to two days at the SSC working with a specialist to identify needs, barriers, and skill gaps to create SMART goals and reintegration plans. Goals and plans include developing executive functioning skills, social-emotional development, and academic recovery. During the 6-8 week reintegration process, students continue to meet weekly with specialists for approximately 15–20 minutes for a check-in.

Outcomes and Measures

SSC specialists monitor student goals and progress weekly. During the 6- to 8-week reintegration period, specialists use data to identify and provide additional support if needed. The goal is to improve attendance and reduce the number of behavior incidents.

Adaptations

The district highlighted that one-on-one student check-ins are a critical part of the program and staff supporting the program block off one day per week for these. In 2024-25, the SSC saw that there was a high need for Tier II services at both high schools (Referral for substance abuse, chronic absenteeism, and behavior referrals).

Due to the improvement of grades, attendance, and behaviors at the high schools, and middle schools, the SSCs also started extending support to all K-8 schools, the Alternative School, and one elementary in the district. By providing additional mental health intervention through Medicaid funding more students and sites are benefiting from the program.

Lessons Learned

The district shared that a lesson it has learned is the need to communicate a combined vision of restorative practices and how they are implemented across schools and classrooms.



About Us

District: Harrison 2
Region: Pikes Peak
Locale: Outlying City
Schools: Sierra HS; Harrison HS

Highlighted Strategies

- Counseling the Whole Child

Name of Program/Intervention

- Student Success Center

Implementation Stage

- Developing-Implementing

Outcomes and Measures

- Reduce chronic absenteeism
- Reduce the number of behavior incidents
- Increase in course passage

Students Served

- Early warning system-identified students