



2023–2024

Student Support Team

Report to the School Board

April 15, 2024





Mission Statement

Mankato Area Public Schools
is committed to working together
equitably, with families and communities,
so that each learner has the knowledge
and skills to be a successful and
contributing citizen in a diverse global
society.

Commitment and Values

Visibly Inclusive
Intentionally Equitable
Actively Anti-racist
Committed to Excellence
Accountable for Results



Student Support Services

- Molly Fox, Lead School Social Worker (West HS)
 - 14 school social workers (3 HS, 4 MS, 3 Elementary, 2 Early Learning, 2 K-12)
- Holly Evans, K-12 Director of School Counseling (East HS)
 - 23 district counselors (7 HS, 4 MS, 9 Elementary, 3 part time Non Public)
- Mikell Franke, Co-Lead School Psychologist (West HS, Non Public Schools)
- Tasha Landwehr, Co-Lead School Psychologist (East HS, Jefferson Elementary)
 - 10 school psychologists (3 HS, 3 MS, 8 Elementary, 3 EC, 1 SUN/Futures, 1 PC/Insite, 1 Nonpublic)
- Kate Kaminski, Lead Licensed School Nurse (PWMS, C4L)
 - 6 LSNs, 18 Health Assistants (RN, LPN, CNA), 2 Health Secretaries
- Mike Green, Chemical Health (West HS, DMMS, Central, Freedom)
- Renae Danberry, Chemical Health (East HS, PWMS, PEEK)



School Psychologists

10 district school psychologists serving students from birth to age 22.

Primary Roles and Responsibilities

- Key member of building Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) teams.
 - MTSS teams analyze building data from universal screeners in reading and social/emotional.
 - MTSS teams also review individual student data to develop proactive academic, behavioral, and social/emotional interventions.
- Psychoeducational evaluations and special education due process
- Facilitators of threat assessment process
- Consultation with parents, students, and staff regarding academic and social/emotional concerns
- Behavioral intervention and de-escalation (functional behavioral assessments)
- Use of data to inform decisions



School Counselors

23 district counselors (7 High School, 4 Middle School, 9 Elementary, 3 part time Non Public)

School Counselors are responsible for three major areas of practice:

- Academic Achievement and Support
- Career and College Readiness/Post Secondary Planning
- Social/Emotional Development

What this looks like K-12:

- Individual and Group Social/Behavioral/Mental Health Counseling (short term)
- College and Career Readiness
- Academic Support and Intervention
- Classroom Development Guidance Lessons
- Safe School Environment (bullying, harassment and conflict resolution)
- Orientation and Transition Services
- Large Group Standardized Assessment
- Case Managers of 504 Plan
- Attendance and Truancy Support



School Social Workers

- 13 School Social Workers (3 High School, 4 Middle School, 5 Elementary, 1 Early Learning- share 2-3 buildings each.
- Support Youth and Families Connecting Home, School and Community
- Homeless Youth Support and Assessments
- Consultation and Intervention
- Attendance Support
- Home Visits
- Staff Trainings
- Social Emotional Learning Groups and Individual Support
- Community and Mental Health Resource Connections
- County Child Protection Team Meetings
- In School Resources- Clothing, Backpacks, FOCP, Toiletries,



School Nurses

- 6 LSNs, 18 Health Assistants (RN, LPN, CNA), 2 Health Secretaries
- Support Public and NonPublic schools
- Review health care plans and obtain medication consents as needed
- Create care plans for students with unique health care needs
- Administer daily medications
- Provide basic first aid
- Assist with any urgent medical emergencies
- Train teachers and staff
- Maintain accurate and up to date records of immunizations
- Utilize a collaborative approach to provide students with consistent school management of their health care needs

"You can't educate a child who isn't healthy and you can't keep a child healthy who is not educated."



Chemical Health Counselors

- 2 Chemical Health Counselors
 - Mike Green (West HS, Dakota Meadows, Central, Freedom School, Futures)
 - Rенаe Danberry (East HS, Prairie Winds, PEEK, Central, Freedom School)
- Provide education on substance use in various settings
- Prevention and early intervention
- Meet with students individually providing a safe and supportive environment
- Opportunity to create and provide groups for additional support with adding second counselor this school year
- Presence in schools to support and address substance use concerns in timely manner
- Connect students with community resources (partnership with WE-Covery)
- Freedom School providing sober learning environment for students in recovery
- Ongoing collaboration with support staff, teachers, and parents



Supporting the SEL of our Students

- Trauma Training offered for all staff
- Wellness Screener for all students - review outcomes and plan follow up support (Themes: Grit, Self Management, Social Awareness, Self Efficacy, Learning Strategies, Classroom Effort, Social Perspective Taking, Emotional Regulation, Engagement, Wellbeing, Sense of Belonging and Safety)
- Mindfulness in Level 3 Classrooms
- Research based SEL curriculum
- Classroom, small group and individual support for students
- PBIS, Restorative Practices, MTSS, Attendance, SEL support teams
- Led Kognito training from MN Department of Health for all staff fall 2021



Our Commitment to an Equitable School Experience

Student support teams have committed to using an equity lens within the following teams/practices mentioned previously:

- MTSS
- Threat Assessment
- Restorative Practices
- Attendance
- Special Education Evaluations
- PBIS



Student Success/Celebration

Attendance Increase:

2022-2023 Attendance Rates (9/6/22-4/3/23)

District Attendance Rate (9/6/22-4/3/23) = **91.16%**

Elementary Attendance Rate (9/6/22-4/3/23) = **93.22%**

Middle School Attendance Rate (9/6/22-4/3/23) = **91.17%**

High School Attendance Rate (9/6/22-4/3/23) = **88.42%**

2023-2024 Attendance Rates (9/5/23-4/3/24)

District Attendance Rate (9/5/23-4/3/24) = **91.90%**

Elementary Attendance Rate (9/5/23-4/3/24) = **93.77%**

Middle School Attendance Rate (9/5/23-4/3/24) = **91.97%**

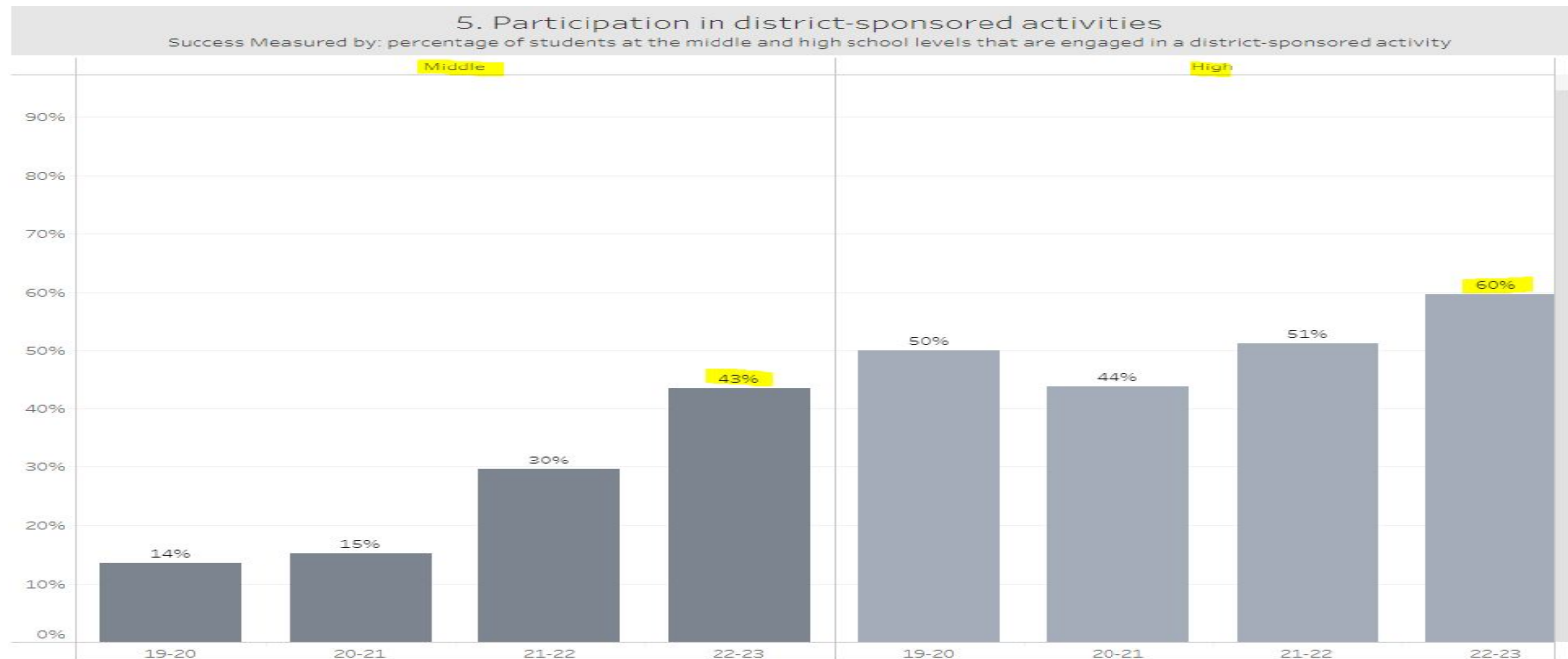
High School Attendance Rate (9/5/23-4/3/24) = **90.59%**

- Launch of Direct Admissions at East/West - Higher in-state college enrollment and FAFSA filing rates statewide
- McKinney Vento students graduating from high school
- One student graduating Freedom School after attending 3 years at Freedom
- Mental Health Connection Senior Led
- Hope Squad



Student Success/Celebration

Connection to District Sponsored Activities





Staff Success/Celebration

- Student Health Department Fully Staffed
- Chemical Health Counselors Doubled
- Filled three school psychologist positions
- Mental Health Presentation to the Student Advisory Council
- MTSS Structure
- From Intake to Graduation: A strengths based approach ALC presentation at the State Alternative Conference
- "In-Depth" Nicotine Use Prevention Training completed by Chemical Health Counselors to utilize district-wide with students



Thank you

Questions?