In previous years, Dayton Public School District worked with multiple external agencies to provide mental health services for students in the district. The counselors provided services, but did not have meaningful connections with families, teachers or principals and there was not a streamlined process for monitoring student progress and communicating with teachers and families. To solve this issue, the district partnered with Dayton Children’s Hospital to hire 26 social workers as “Student Resiliency Coordinators,” who are employed by the hospital and function as case managers for students in long term counseling.

In August 2020, student resiliency coordinators began holding regular meetings with students, parents, counselors and school personnel to track, communicate, and reevaluate student progress on a consistent basis. Case managers are responsible for liaising with all parties to ensure that the children receiving treatment have adequate supports. Teachers and principals have comprehensive and coordinated communication and better progress management. An increased number of therapists on site has improved the ability to support students. Recent changes have empowered staff to utilize more therapeutic, as opposed to punitive, behavioral interventions—a change that would not have been as successful without this program. While Dayton Public School District has provided immediate access to needed mental health care services for students for years, there has been an increase in parent satisfaction as a result of the resiliency coordinator program. Parents have greatly appreciated that services are now being administered through the new partnership and that there is a dedicated, formal process for keeping parents updated with their student’s progress.

Essential partners include Dayton Children’s Hospital, the counseling service providers that the district contracts with and staff leadership who have worked to integrate the program into existing behavioral health structures.

Senior leadership at Dayton City School District began conversations with Dayton Children’s Hospital about potential partnership opportunities and ways to address health care disparities in the community, particularly in West Dayton. Out of these conversations, came the idea to streamline the district’s counseling services by employing a team of Student Resiliency Coordinators.

For More Information:

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NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were used for this initiative.