

# Introduction/Welcome Blog

*The Department of Mental Health Services* is the newest department in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). Our department formed during the 2018-2019 school year with the focus on supporting student's social-emotional development and well-being. In addition to the support we provide students, our department engages parents, teachers, and the overall community to gain an understanding and awareness of mental health through presentations and trainings to ultimately de-stigmatize mental health.

**Who we are:** We are a thriving department that includes 73 school-based Mental Health Coordinators with a mission to promote that mental wellness matters! In addition to our staff, we work in partnership with The Children's Trust to further support the needs of students.

**Where we are located:** Mental Health Coordinators and affiliated professionals are located across M-DCPS in all elementary, K-8 , and secondary schools.

**What we do:** Mental Health Coordinators provide school-based mental health services through various evidence-based practices that assist students presenting with atypical emotional concerns. In addition to our school site services, M-DCPS has contracts with community mental health agencies to ensure there is a continuum of care for students and their families.

**When to seek our help/assistance:** School-aged children and adolescents experience various typical changes throughout their development. However, when a student displays a significant change in mood or behavior, it may be time to ask for support.

**How to seek our help/assistance:** If there are concerns about a student's mental or emotional well-being, contact your school administrator, school counselor or our mental health assistance line at **305-995-7100**. Mental Health Coordinators

receive referrals from school counselors and administrators. We work collaboratively with school staff and parents to best address the social and emotional needs of students and their families.

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