

**Baltimore City Public Schools**  
**SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS 1998-1999 OVERVIEW**

Adapted from Glass-Siegel, M. & Leslie, L. (1999). *Partnership between education and mental health: Baltimore's Experience*. Presented 9/17/1999.

School-based mental health services, provided through a partnership between the BCPSS and eight community mental health agencies, are available to students in regular education. These services enable students to participate in academic instruction, by addressing underlying emotional and behavioral concerns. The school-based mental health programs complement and supplement the services provided by the Pupil Services staff.

During the 1998-99 school year, a total of 4,780 students in 64 schools were referred for mental health services. The volume of referrals reflects a perceived need among school administrators, teachers, parents, and the students themselves for these services. Over 21,000 individual sessions and more than 20,000 group contacts were provided. Reported teacher contacts totaled more than 6700 and over 4500 parent contacts were made during the course of the school year. The mental health clinicians were active participants in School Improvement Teams and School Support Teams. Year-end reports from the sponsoring mental health programs include the following outcomes for students who received services: improved attendance decreased suspensions improved academic performance improved conduct grades

SELECTED EXAMPLES:

- Overall figures for the 19 schools served by the Johns Hopkins, East Baltimore Mental Health Partnership (EBMHP) indicate that 80% of the students served had improved conduct grades following mental health intervention.
- Of the 51 referrals at Forest Park High School, 24% had been referred as a result of suspensions; however, fewer than 3% received a subsequent suspension following services.
- Of the students receiving mental health services at Canton Middle School: 92% had improved attendance 94% had decreased suspensions 90% had improved grades

COOPERATIVE FUNDING:

The Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) provides \$1,600,000 to community-based mental health programs that provide mental health services to students in regular education in 54 BCPSS schools. Medicaid monies are used to support this program.

State and federal mental health funds allocated through Baltimore Mental Health System, Inc. provide \$1,105,200 to supplement funding provided by the BCPSS in many of the 54 schools and to fund mental health services in 10 additional schools.

Funding source	% of total budget to fund mental health services in 64 BCPS schools	Amount of funding
BCPSS	57%	\$1,600,000
In kind services from five of the mental health agencies receiving BCPSS contracts	3%	\$86,600
State and federal mental health funds allocated through Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc.	40%	\$1,105,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$2,791,800</b>