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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.
DATE: June 30, 2023

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2023-85

SUBJECT: Mental Health Assistance Allocation (MHAA) Plan

In the 2018 legislative session, Senate Bill 7026 established the MHAA within the Florida Education Finance Program to provide funding to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care.

House Bill (HB) 5101

The 2023 Florida Legislature passed, and Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law, House Bill (HB) 5101. This bill amends the MHAA found in section (s.) 1011.62(13), Florida Statutes (F.S.), so that the allocation funds school-based mental health assistance programs established under s. 1006.041, F.S. Section 1006.041, F.S., was created by HB 5101. It requires each school district to implement a school-based mental health assistance program that includes training to detect and respond to mental health issues. The school district must develop a plan that is approved by the district school board. The plan must be focused on a multi-tiered system of supports that includes:

- Direct employment of school-based mental health services providers;
- Contracts or interagency agreements with local community behavioral health providers or Community Action Team services; and
- Policies and procedures for timelines for services, parental/household notification, at-risk students, early identification, de-escalation, and requirements for contacting mental health professionals.

School district plans must include all district schools, including charter schools, unless a charter school elects to submit a plan independently from the school district. For charter schools that opt out, they will develop and submit a detailed plan outlining the local program and planned expenditures to its governing body for approval. After the plan is approved by the governing body, it must be provided to the charter school's sponsor.

Submission of the 2023-2024 MHAA Plan

Districts are to submit the 2023-2024 MHAA Plan using the Florida Continuous Improvement Management System (CIMS) by August 1. CIMS is an online platform in which the plan is created and submitted. Please note that there is an MHAA Plan for school districts and a separate plan for charter.

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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