



BCSSSD Child Study Team and Related Services Initiatives & Programs 2023-2024

AAC Communication Initiative +++

BCSSSD is dedicated to ensuring that every student has a voice. Our team provides evaluations and consultative services. Our specialized Speech Language Therapists work with the students and families to determine the most appropriate device and then navigate the insurance company. BCSSSD has invested in 40 Ipads for trialing as well as GoTalks, an eye gaze system, and other resources. We utilize apps including LAMP, TouchChat, and Speak for Yourself. Additionally we provide training and consultation to parent/guardians and classroom staff.

Care Solace

BCSSSD partnered with Care Solace to support the well-being of students, staff, and their family members in the community/home setting. Care Solace is a complimentary and confidential care coordination service that can help quickly find mental health or substance use treatment options matched to student/staff needs regardless of circumstance. Families and staff can access the service here: caresolace.com/bcsssd

CrisisGo ***

BCSSSD will utilize Crisisgo to support our drills and security protocols starting in September 2023. The app focuses on increasing student/staff security and communication. The easily accessible features of the app will allow our team to alert staff quickly while providing guidance on next steps. The app also supports our reunification plan.

DREAMS Project ***

Our district will participate in the Developing Resiliency with Engaging Approaches to Maximize Success (DREAMS) initiative for the 2023-2024 school year. The New Jersey Department of Children and Families with the support of The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will work with our school district to implement trauma-informed and healing-centered practices. Staff will also receive training in the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA).

Enhancing Mental Health Services Project ***

The program partners with the New Jersey Department of Education and the Rutgers Center for Comprehensive School Mental Health to support our school in the development and implementation of a comprehensive school mental health system. We will conduct a formal assessment to implement new initiatives while also enhancing our current programs.

Floreo/ Virtual Reality +++

Our therapy teams have access now to Virtual Reality (Meta Quest) headsets to use with students. Introduced in late Spring 2023, we have implemented Floreo as an evidence-based program to work on social, behavioral, communication, and life skills scenarios in a safe environment.

Healing Centered Engagement

BCSSSD continues to provide training on Adverse Childhood Experiences , trauma-informed practices, and healing centered-engagement.

InSite Health- Psychiatric Medication Management

BCSSSD collaborates with InSite Health to refer students in need of medication management. The case managers are able to refer students via an electronic referral system and InSite will reach out directly to the parent/guardian to schedule a telehealth meeting within 72 hours.

Interactive Floor/Wall +++

BCSSSD continues to incorporate more interactive technology into our building for student use. In addition to the interactive floor and new equipment in the Central sensory hallway, there will now be an interactive ball wall installed in the media center to enhance gross motor skills and emotional regulation among students.

MILO

Milo the robot is an interactive robot that engages students in learning and helps generalize and improve social skills for students with autism. Students are interested in Milo which helps them engage in the lesson and maintain focus. The MILO program is overseen by a Speech Language Pathologist in consultation with select classroom teachers.

Student Support Team

The BCSSSD Student Support Team (SST) is an interdisciplinary team within our school that comes together to discuss and formulate coordinated services and team delivery systems to address the full range of student learning, behavior, social, and health problems. Staff members refer students to the SST for various reasons, including but not limited to, concerns related to:

- Academic Performance
- Behavior
- Social-emotional needs
- Attendance
- 1:1 Support
- Community-based service

Teen and Youth Mental Health First Aid

BCSSSD has implemented training in both Teen and Youth Mental Health First Aid. tMHFA teaches teens in grades 10-12, or ages 15-18, how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their friends and peers. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Tri-State Canine Response Team

This partnership provides an animal-based therapeutic interaction for students and staff. During sessions with the dog teams, students work on social skills, safety skills, communication, and other practical skills while experiencing the inherent benefits of spending time with animals

Other Enhancements for 2023-2024

Updating of Swing in South Campus Therapy Gym

Updating of Therapy Steps in South Campus Therapy Gym

Implementation of Squeeze Machine on East Campus

Updating of Sensory Room/ Zen Den Equipment on South Campus

Introduction of WIN Rooms on South/North Campuses

Continuation of Bal-A-Vis-X Strategies in OT/PT

Updating of multiple resources in all therapies- purchase for 2023-2024 school year

Increase in availability of touch screen monitors

Implementation of updated screening protocols for suicidal/homicidal student screenings

Increase in counseling group options utilizing the Student Assistance Coordinator

Reintroduction of quarterly newsletters for sending district Directors/Case Managers

*** New initiative/program for 2023-2024

+++ Program is expanding for 2023-2024