

Discussion Item

Date: April 7, 2025 **Division**: Chief of Schools

Subject: Counseling and Social Work Program Update

Background Information:

- This is an update on the impact of the work of the Counseling and Social Work department initiatives, campus counselors and the specialized mental health positions of student assistance counselors and social workers.
- The scope of the Counseling and Social Work department includes programming to address personal, social, academic and mental health needs of students in order for them to be successful academically, personally and socially.
- Forty three campuses were recognized by the Texas School Counselor Association for exemplary Texas Model Comprehensive School Counseling Programs and all counseling programs are defined by 2 TEC 33.005, 2 TEC 33.006.
- In the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session 2021, SB 179 was passed. This requires school districts to adopt a policy that requires a school counselor to spend at least 80% of the school counselor's total work time on duties that are components of a comprehensive school counseling program. Each year the district is required to report the time tracker tool that is being utilized and the number of counselors who are in compliance or not in compliance.

Administrative Consideration:

- Monya Crow, Executive Director, and Jill Adams, Director, for the Counseling and Social Work will be presenting data and information regarding the Counseling and Social Work department programming and services for students, families and staff.
- Through the implementation of the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs, counselors are able to focus on the four components: responsive services, guidance, individual planning and system support.
- With the utilization of a time tracker tool for 2024-2025, the data shows that professional school counselors are able to spend more than 80% of their time on counseling duties and programming as defined by the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs.
- With the implementation of the Student Assistance Counselor and Social Work programs, LISD is providing crucial support for students, families and staff in collaboration with the campus counselors, in order to address trauma, stress, mental health and basic need concerns which impact the ability of students to learn in the classroom.