

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	School-Based Mental Health Services Agreement
Code	236.2
Status	Active
Adopted	May 10, 2010

Purpose

Feedback from consumers and community programs including the school district has indicated that clinic-based mental health services of children does not meet the needs of many children for several reasons:

1. For many families, there is a stigma attached to mental health services particularly when such services require commuting to a site outside the neighborhood area.
2. Many children are unable to benefit from services due to the irregularity of sessions. Interrupted services are a result of lack of transportation, the difficulty in bringing a whole family in for one child's service due to a lack of child care as well as ambivalent support by parents/guardians for the services.
3. Difficulty in scheduling regular appointments also becomes an issue in effective services. Frequently, a child who is scheduled to come to the clinic during school hours will miss one-half to a full day of school because many families must use public transportation to get the child to the clinic. These absences generally may contribute to the difficulty the child may already be having in keeping up with school work.
4. When a child's problematic behavior particularly involves school issues, clinic services are too far removed from the setting both in timeliness of intervention and in the service provider's ability to be familiar with all the factors involved.
5. Many of the children in today's public schools have serious emotional needs that simply cannot be met solely in the classroom. It is only through a sensitive partnership of education and mental health that more needs of children can be met.

Goals and Objectives

The School-Based Mental Health Services Agreement helps overcome the cited obstacles to services by providing individually designed service in the children's schools, homes, and communities. Through this partnership, the mental health needs of children can better be met.

The goals of the school-based services program are:

1. To contribute to the positive development of the mental health of children.
2. To provide quality mental health services on-site relative to student's strengths and uniqueness.
3. To maintain the student in his/her school and community while receiving services. Sometimes a child may need a more restrictive service setting to better meet his/her needs but the long-term goal remains keeping the child in the home school.
4. To measure the level of student, family, and school staff satisfaction and respond quickly to any concerns or dissatisfaction.
5. To supplement and complement services provided by the school district.

School-based mental health services address the following objectives:

1. Reduce the troubling symptoms of emotional disturbance in a student so s/he can return to, or remain in, the classroom.
2. Educate relevant school staff to recognize the symptoms of emotional illness so they may appropriately refer a student to the services program.
3. Provide the opportunity for youth to learn emotional self care without experiencing services as a stigma.
4. Plan the services to incorporate the strengths of the student, family, community, and school.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent will have the authority to enter into agreements with licensed mental health agencies which provide school-based mental health services for students whose parents/guardians have a signed informed consent indicating their desire and

approval for their child to be seen in school.