

**Alachua County Public Schools District Advisory Council
2023-24 Recommendations and Suggestions**

The following items regarding Mental Health/Behavior were approved by a majority of DAC members during a meeting on 3/26/24 in which a quorum was reached according to DAC bylaws. They are therefore presented as formal recommendations.

Mental Health/Behavior Recommendation #1

The DAC recommends that the superintendent:

- By August 2024 - Initiate a task force with a representative set of stakeholders (to include the student services team) to gather community input around common life management/resiliency challenges for middle and high school students
- By December 2024 - Initiate a feasibility study of implementing a pilot program of life management/resiliency skills in middle school curriculum/classrooms

Based on the results of the feasibility study:

- If feasible, secure funding and implement a pilot program in the 2025-26 school the following school year in 1-2 schools
- If not feasible - share barriers that exist or other recommendations or ideas

Explanatory Note: The general description of life management skills recommended for review include but are not limited to:

- *Healthy relationships with social media/impact of screen time*
- *Emotional self-regulation*
- *Stress management*
- *Effective dialogue/conflict resolution*

Mental Health/Behavior Recommendation #2

The DAC recommends staffing a Behavioral Resource Teacher (BRT) for every 500 students in all middle and high schools for the 2024-25 school year. If this cannot be implemented, the district would provide information to the DAC on why it is not feasible.

(continued)

The following items regarding transportation, mental health and other topics were approved by a majority of DAC members present at a meeting on 4/25/24. However, a quorum was not reached according to DAC bylaws. They are therefore presented as suggestions.

Transportation

SUGGESTION: Formally contact Alachua County Government to request that the speed limit in front of Terwilliger Elementary extend the 45 mph speed limit on Parker Road south of Terwilliger Elementary School.

SUGGESTION: Send out a survey to get input from stakeholders (educators and parents) who have been impacted by the reduction in courtesy busing (defined as transportation for students living within two miles of their school who are not eligible for transportation under state law), with results presented to the district administration and School Board;

Additional notes: The committee also discussed but did not vote on topics including: a review of attendance data; discussions with family liaisons and attendance officers about barriers to attendance for students living within two miles of school; providing bikes, helmets and other items for students who may need them to get to school; courtesy hubs similar to magnet hubs.

Mental Health

SUGGESTION: Address the issue of replacing behavior-related staff currently funded through ESSER

Sports

SUGGESTION: Investigate expanding the middle school sports program to include running/track-related sports

DAC By-law Changes

Note: DAC members discussed by-law changes that should be considered by the 2024-25 DAC, including: allowing substitutes for school-based and board member-selected DAC members to vote and have their votes count toward a quorum, and; clarifying the process for presenting DAC recommendations to the Superintendent/School Board. The following suggestion was approved by a majority of the members present, although a quorum was not in place.

SUGGESTION: Provide additional information about the DAC to SACs/PTAs/PTO; encourage SAC chairs, preferably at every SAC meeting, to solicit input from their members for possible discussion/consideration by the DAC; provide all SAC chairs with DAC agendas/minutes