

Social Emotional Learning for the 2021-2021 School Year

June 2021 Newsletter Highlights

June 30, 2021 - The Student Services department is creating a comprehensive support plan for all staff who provide mental health interventions and services to students. The goal of the comprehensive plan is to ensure all services that students may need are provided upon their return to school this fall.

OCPS is providing the Second Step SEL program for all schools K-8. Second Step is a holistic approach to building supportive communities for every child through social-emotional learning. The program offers web-based, teacher-facilitated lessons and activities. The objective is to help students build social-emotional skills for success in life. For High Schools the School Connect SEL program will be purchased. School-Connect is a high school social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum designed to improve high school students' social, emotional, and academic skills and strengthen relationships among students and between students and teachers. Professional development for teachers will be provided in July.

For the 2021-2022 school year all Middle Schools will have a fulltime social worker or mental health counselor. This full-time mental health specialist will support school and students with mental health training, social emotional learning interventions and direct counseling services.

OCPS is implementing the Second Step Adult SEL program which will be available to all staff. The Second Step SEL for Adults is composed of modules, each representing a social-emotional professional learning domain. Adult SEL is important because successful SEL implementation depends on how well staff work together to facilitate SEL instruction, foster a positive school community, and model social and emotional competence. Schools will be introduced to Adult SEL in July and there will be training provided during the first 9 weeks of school.

OCPS will offer its first Mental Health Symposium focused on teacher and student wellness on July 28, 2021. The symposium will educate teachers about adult social emotional learning, enhance self-care practices, and increase teachers' awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental illness in youth. The symposium content will help teachers establish and maintain positive conditions for learning. This is a virtual event and registration is available on Canvas.