

Family Resource Center

Painesville City Local School District

Painesville, OH | Lake County

Initiative Type(s):

Family engagement and support services; Services for homeless youth; Community liaisons; Physical health care services; Student services provided prior to or after school;

Community Partner(s):

Educational service center; Community-based MH treatment provider; A board of health; Nonprofit organization; Public hospital; Board of alcohol, drug and mental health services

Description of Initiative:

The district's Family Resource Center is centrally-located and is the first point of contact for all families in the district for social, economic, behavioral, and mental health supports. At the center, two family resource liaisons work to connect students and families in need with appropriate resources and act as liaisons between schools, families and community organizations. Through case management, liaisons improve service linkages and ensure that students and families can access services. Liaisons provide general supports to the entire school district community and identify students and families who need services but may be hesitant to reach out for help or are facing barriers in seeking assistance.

Initiative Benefits:

The Family Resource Center assists all families, whether they need prevention, education, advocacy, outreach, stabilization, support and/or crisis intervention. By creating friendly, supportive and non-judgmental spaces, staff ensures that all parents and caregivers feel comfortable dropping in for questions, connections and conversation. The Center provides support for developmental and academic success. In the previous school year, the following metrics are a result of the center's work: 330 students served by weekend feeding program (49,500 meals), 927 coats to students, 67 physicals, 24 participants in group workout classes, 27 participants in Parent Book Club, 226 participants in Adult English as a Second Language Program, 75 enrollees in Growing Readers Storytime (ages 3-6) program and 74 enrollees in Healthy Kids Program. Through an extensive network of community partners, liaisons assist families with: housing, food, clothing, utilities, car seats, WIC assistance, nutrition education, dental care, mental health care, domestic violence assistance, addiction counseling, pediatric wellness physicals, immunizations, sexual abuse counseling, immigration and citizenship assistance, protective services, child support enforcement, employment and professional training, literacy, prescription assistance, transportation, youth programs, interpretation services, child care, assistance for families of children with developmental disabilities, public assistance and parenting support.

Essential Staff and Partners:

The two liaisons who operate the Family Resource Center, as well as the dozens of community partners and agencies who provide services, are key to the success of this initiative.

Action Steps to Get Started:

Four years ago, Painesville City Local School District wrote a grant with The Cleveland Foundation to start the program. To continue the program, program managers have utilized Student Wellness and Success Fund money. In addition to securing funding sources, the program's success hinges on the liaison's continued engagement with community partners.

For More Information:

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NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were used for this initiative.