Comprehensive School Health Services (CSHS) Performance Measures

Job Aid

School Health Institute for Education and Leadership Development

What are the nine performance measures?

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The nine performance measures are:
1. Chronic absenteeism across the district (target – 3% annual decrease)
2. ELL students seen at least once annually (not incl. screenings) by the school nurse (target – 90% seen)
3. Students who are overweight or obese (target – 1% annual decrease)
4. Students who identified as experiencing depression, anxiety, and/or suicidal ideation to receive mental health services from the school nurse (target – 90% receive services)
5. Students identified as homeless or marginally housed to receive school nurse services (incl. comprehensive assessment of mental and physical health needs), and referrals and follow-ups, at least twice every school year (target – 100% receive services)
6. Students with special healthcare needs (asthma, autism, ADHD, diabetes, life-threatening allergies, seizure disorders, diagnosed mental health disorder) to have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) developed (target – 100% IHCPs developed)
7. Students who fail a screening to have a referral made (target – 85% referrals made)
8. Students who report having at least one trusted adult at school (target – 10% annual increase)
9. Students who report having been victims of bullying or violence to receive mental health assessments at least monthly by the school nurse (target – 100% receive assessment)

What data sources can be used to assess each performance measure?

2

In general, DESE data and school district data can be used to assess performance measures.

Possible data sources that can be used to assess each specific performance measure include:
- Absenteeism: DESE attendance data (historical and sorted by student group), and current attendance data from the Student Information System (SIS)
- ELL: electronic health record (EHR) system and SIS
- Overweight/obese: screening records (for students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10) and EHR system
- Behavioral health: EHR system
- Homeless: EHR system and homeless liaison reports
- Special healthcare needs: EHR system
- Referral: EHR system
- Trusted adult: Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Bullying: EHR system and bullying records from school administrators

How often are performance measures assessed and reported?

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Performance measures are assessed annually at the end of the school year and reported using the status report form (online).

What happens if a performance measure target has not been met?

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If a performance measure target has not been met, a plan for improvement must be developed using needs assessment data, a racial equity lens, evidence-based interventions, and quality improvement methods. If multiple targets have not been met, it is recommended that the district select one measure and provide a plan for improvement (selecting a different measure each year).

What are some possible starting strategies for improvement in performance measures?

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Possible starting strategies for improvement in performance measures include:
- Absenteeism:
  - Identify absenteeism early in the school year
  - Identify students absent in lower grades (elementary)
  - Target interventions at racial/ethnic subgroups with greatest absenteeism
  - Create interventions for students with asthma
- ELL:
  - Flag the ELL students in the EHR
  - Query EHR system monthly to identify ELL students not seen
- Overweight/obese:
  - Review evidence-based strategies
  - Focus interventions on subgroups (i.e., race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status) with the greatest percentage of obese/overweight students
  - School meal and food policies
  - Increase opportunities for daily physical activity
- Behavioral health:
  - Use the EHR to track students with mental health issues
  - Improve outreach, especially to subgroups disproportionally impacted
- Homeless:
  - Track all data elements in EHR system
  - Query EHR system to identify students for follow up
- Special healthcare needs:
  - Run a monthly query of students with special healthcare needs without IHCPs
  - Identify missing IHCPs by race/ethnicity subgroups
- Referral:
  - Improve the referral tracking and follow up system
  - Use EHR to track referrals and completed referrals
  - Run a monthly query of students who fail a screening but don't have a referral;
  - Check for disparities by race/ethnicity
- Trusted adult:
  - Use "warm" handoffs for referrals
  - Work with school partners to implement school-wide SEL strategies that emphasize connections to school community
- Bullying:
  - Identify victims and victim subgroups
  - Schedule monthly mental health assessments

What resources are available to schools for reporting performance measures assessments?

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If a school needs help reporting performance measures assessments, the following resources may be able to provide assistance or guidance:
- If you need help with your EHR system, contact your EHR vendor's technical support department or ask another CSHS district who uses the same EHR system.
- Regional consultants and other nurse managers may be able to provide additional guidance.
- Printable worksheets and guides that are emailed to the nurse manager at the beginning of the year.
- Online data collection forms (include additional instructions and tips for using the online tool).
- For data questions, email dph_eshs_data@massmail.state.ma.us (not for financial questions).
- To submit updates on staffing changes or changes to an email address, email juliet.berk@state.ma.us and dph_eshs_data@massmail.state.ma.us.