

MEMORANDUM

TO: Boston School Committee

FROM: Jill Carter, Asst Superintendent, Health & Wellness, DWC Co-Chair
Jenifer Lo, MD, Medical Director, BPHC, DWC Co-Chair

CC: Superintendent Brenda Cassellius
Chief of Staff Mary Dillman
Senior Advisor Megan Costello

DATE: Wednesday, August 4, 2021

RE: District Wellness Policy SY19-20 Annual Report

The District Wellness Council (DWC) is required to annually assess compliance with the BPS District Wellness Policy, alternating between qualitative and quantitative annual assessments. The attached quantitative report contains:

- The background, purpose, and methods for the report;
- District- and school-level metrics to assess the implementation of each of the eight areas of the wellness policy and the requirements for district and school wellness councils for the school year 2019-2020;
- Student health and health behavior metrics from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), SNAPNurse database, and the 2020 School Climate Survey;
- A discussion on policy implementation progress and key health barriers to academic success (i.e. obesity, sexual health, asthma, and behavioral and mental health); and
- Recommendations to maintain and improve the BPS Wellness Policy implementation.

In a school year where we faced a global public health crisis that has had significant impacts on our local community, it is vital that we take the time to examine how we've measured up to our commitment to wellness policies and practices, how we adapted to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we will expand what worked in order to help our schools return, recover, and reimagine a better way forward. BPS Departments have had significant accomplishments to date in all policy areas, and schools have worked through their wellness councils to make the district policy come alive at their school buildings. There have been investments in improving infrastructure and increasing staff to provide support services; now is the time for the district to invest in whole-child instruction. We must improve our district's delivery of standards-aligned, skills-based health education and increase social-emotional learning delivery through health education, physical education, the arts, and embedded into other academic areas. This report illustrates how the health of BPS students and schools drives the work of various departments and offices to coordinate across all policy areas to provide support to schools and direct support to students. We must ensure that the district continues to address the non-academic health barriers to learning through an equity-based Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child approach

According to federal and state law, this annual report must be presented to the Superintendent and the BPS School Committee, submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and made available to the public. The report is sent to DESE in Fall 2021 as a part of the Food and Nutrition Services Administrative Review. The report is shared with the public on the BPS website and the District Wellness Council Meetings and district parent councils.