



DPSCD Receives more than \$3 Million in support to Expand Mental Health Services for Students

Partnerships will result in students receiving school-based care, and school staff receiving targeted professional development in best practices

DETROIT – January 6, 2020 – Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) in partnership with the University of Michigan’s TRAILS (Transforming Research into Action to Improve the Lives of Students) is expanding behavioral and mental health support for students and families.

“Unfortunately, federal and state education funding does not take into account that our schools and their employees must overcome the daily socio-emotional challenges our children face every day. This means we cannot simply focus on teaching and learning,” said Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, DPSCD. “As a school system we cannot wait for others to move with a sense of urgency to support our children and the greater community. We continue to champion the whole child approach to raise student achievement and help empower our students and families to remove the barriers that impede their academic development. Our teachers have been demanding trauma informed care and we are now finally addressing it through this grant and plan to expand the model districtwide with greater non-profit, health care, and philanthropic support.”

The District is receiving support from the University of Michigan’s TRAILS Program, which will provide professional development for staff in all DPSCD buildings PreK-12 on best practices for supporting student mental health and wellness; and will also offer mental health tools and resources for staff, students, and families; and technical support districtwide. TRAILS has engaged the Youth Policy Lab (YPL) at the U-M Ford School of Public Policy to conduct a needs assessment that will identify district priorities, inform future programming, and provide a benchmark for program evaluation. The multi-year partnership with TRAILS is funded by \$3 million in support from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services’ Medicaid Match program (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), and generous local funders, including the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, the Children’s Foundation, the Jewish Fund and Metro Health Foundation.

“We are thrilled to be partnering with DPSCD, where our goal is to provide the training, tools, and resources that will enable staff to respond to students’ mental health needs more effectively and efficiently” said TRAILS Program Director, Elizabeth Koschmann.

“Collaborative funders are working together to bring much needed mental health resources to students and families in DPSCD” said Ethel and James Flinn Foundation CEO, Andrea Cole.