
Collaborating For Solutions

Hamden Public Schools Partnering With The Community

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Today we are here to talk about solutions that will get all of our students meeting standards for academic achievement.

It can seem like we are facing an overwhelming puzzle that cannot be solved. There are many pieces to fit together.

Just like we do with any puzzle, we have to approach it in manageable sections and sometimes even one small piece at a time. We need to call on friends who have different perspectives and view the puzzle differently to come up with creative strategies.

We get to the solution by working together.

Social & emotional difficulties impact the achievement of students

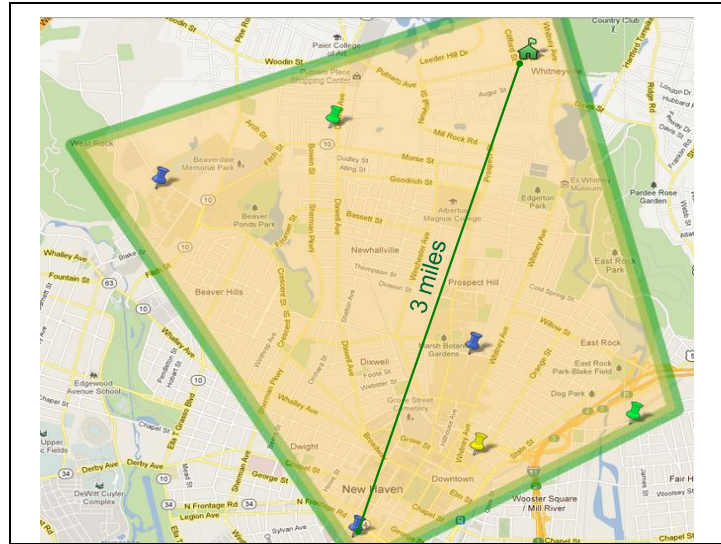


Social & emotional development is one section of the achievement puzzle. Our school district has been working on a multi-tiered solution to improve the skills of our students for managing their emotions and behavior. We know that when we enhance the social & emotional skills of students their academic performance improves. We know that we can make progress in this area and we know that our students and schools will improve. We also know that we cannot overcome the challenges we face on our own. We need to combine our school district's resources with resources in the broader community if we are going to be effective.

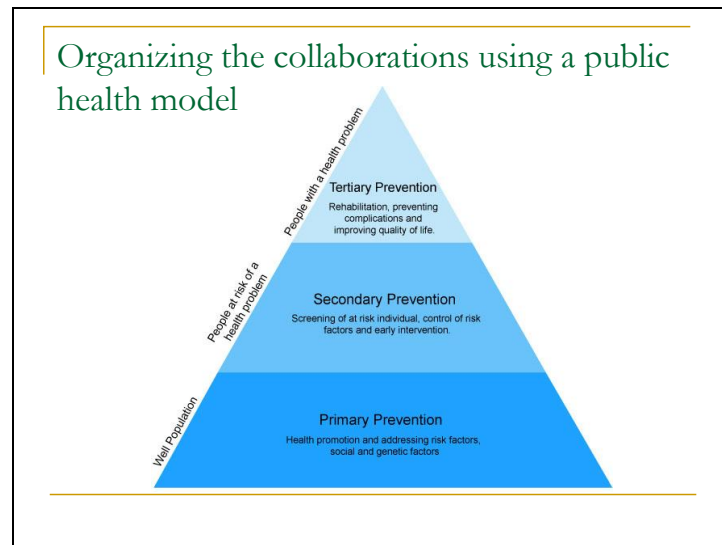


We have a growing list of agencies and organization we have partnered with to support our students and their families. Our school district has been able to form these partnerships because of the strong foundation that we developed with the staff in our schools. We have had the continuous support of our superintendent, Fran Rabinowitz, our Board of Education, and the Mayor’s office which allowed us to have the strong base needed to grow these broad ranging collaborations.

- Yale Child Study Center – Dr. Bruce Wexler, Dr. Jim Leckman, Dr. Eric Arzubi, Dr. Fred Volkmar, Dr. Christine Dauser, Jean Adnopoz
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee within the CT Office of Policy and Management – Valerie LaMotte
- SCSU – Dr. Joy Fopiano
- Hamden Youth Services – Susan Rubino, Beth Ciarello & The Consultation Center
- Yale University – Dr. Marc Brackett and the Health, Emotion & Behavior Lab
- CFGNH – Sarah Fabish
- CT Health Foundation – Ben Rodriguez
- Hamden Police Dept. – Chief Wydra; Detective Stephen Rossacci (Youth Squad)
- New Haven Family Alliance – Kyisha Velazquez
- Mayor Scott Jackson’s office
- Hamden Partnership for Young Children – Florence Villano & Tricia Godfrey



The majority of these partners are within a 3 mile radius of our main office for the school district. These potential partners have always been our neighbors, but we only began developing these collaborative relationships over the past two years. We realized that the social and emotional development of our students was not some tangential piece of a successful education. We knew that we had to make it a priority. Given the economic challenges that all communities face, we knew we had to reach out to our neighbors for the good of our students.



It is important that we have a framework which provides an established structure to keep all of this work focused and integrated. This public health model is only aligned with the SDE's SRBI model.

Our school staff provide services and interventions at all tiers as part of our regular education and special education programming. Services from collaborating partners are listed below.

Tier 1 – Primary Prevention

- Dr. Brackett from Yale Univ. implementing the RULER approach
- IBBS Program with Yale Child Study Center, Dr. Bruce Wexler and Dr. Jim Lechman
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support
- School Climate initiatives

Tier 2 – Secondary Prevention

- ECC at Church St. School; funding from CFGNH & CHF; partnering with SCSU & YCSC; providing behavioral support in classrooms, parenting classes in the evening & preparing to offer in-home family support through YCSC and Jean Adnopoz who developed the **Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (IICAPS)** model
- JRB; partnering with Hamden Youth Svcs.; NH Family Alliance and Hamden Police Dept. with financial support from the Mayor
- Attendance Grant; funding from OPM and Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

Tier 3 – Tertiary Prevention

- Working to pilot at least one School-Based Health Center in collaboration with YCSC



Addressing the social and emotional needs of our students through strategic partnerships will improve academic achievement for our students which will create opportunities for success. This will lead to better opportunities and a brighter future for our community as a whole.

We will continue seek partnerships between our school district, government agencies, community organizations, health care providers, and private foundations as we maintain funding and provide access to valuable services that prevent & ameliorate difficulties for our students.

THE CHALLENGES WE OVERCOME TODAY CREATE THE OPPORTUNITES OF TOMORROW.