

Comprehensive School Counseling Report

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOLS



Last Year 2018-2019

- ▶ School Counselor ratios were:

1 to 786 (MCES)

1 to 660 (MCIS)

1 to 647 (KMS)

2 to 797 (MCSH)



- ▶ Isolated from each other

- ▶ Reactive in Nature- “putting out fires”

- ▶ Overwhelmed with administrative/testing duties

- ▶ Little, if any Tier I instruction occurring



*What
Changed??*

Personnel



1 Half-Time Social Worker & 1 Half Time School Counselor Added



School Counselors no longer BACs or registrars



School Counselors devote 60% of time to direct student services

What Does This Look Like in Practical Terms



Counselors are Counseling!

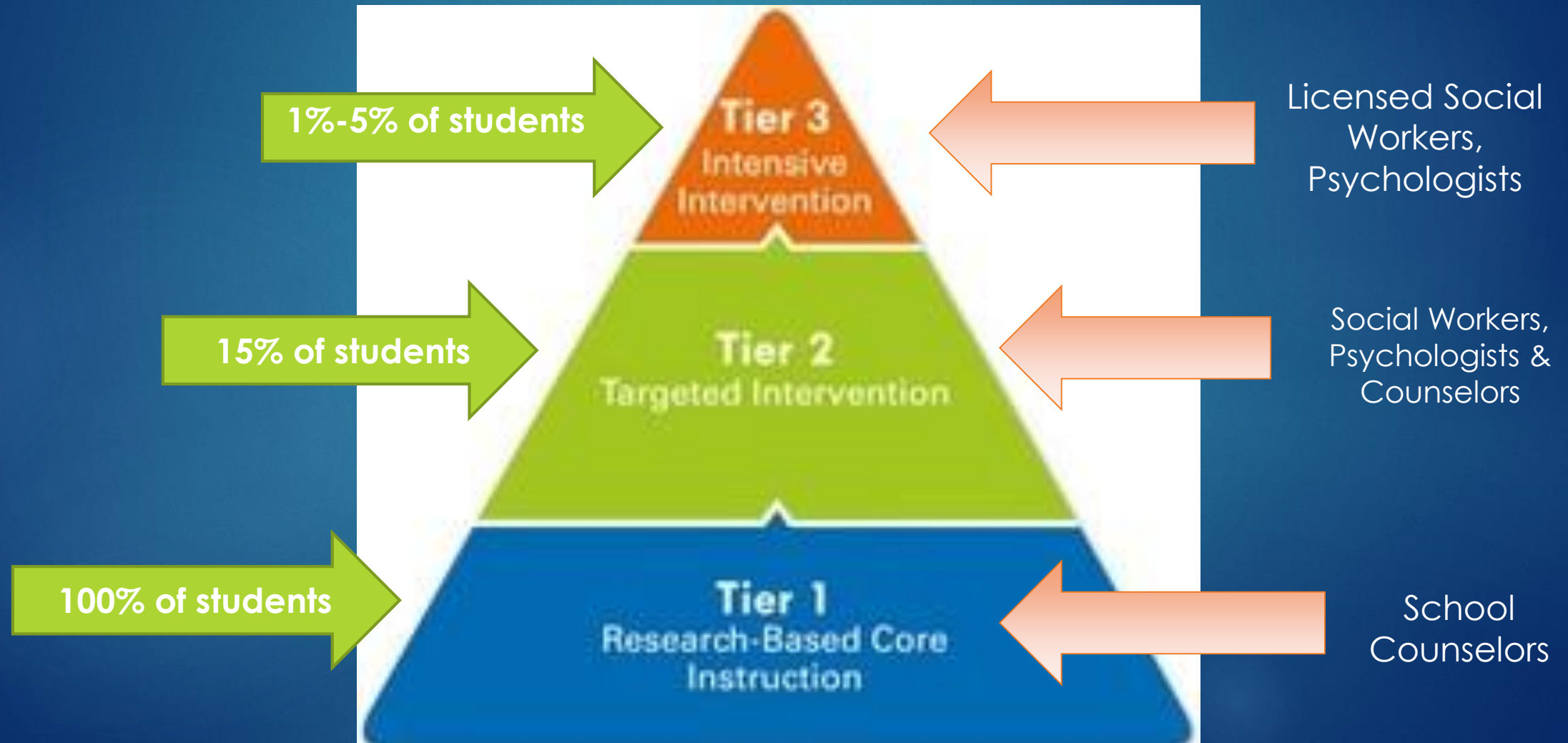


More referrals, suicide assessments & services provided



Tier I is FINALLY being provided

Tier Model for Social/Emotional Behavioral Interventions





**Tier I is
PREVENTION!**

What Does Tier I Look Like in MC Schools?

Mercer Elementary

- ▶ 30 minutes of social/emotional lessons each day (Positive Action) overseen by school counselor
- ▶ Character Word of the Week

What Does Tier I Look Like in MC Schools?

Mercer Intermediate

- ▶ 45 minute social/emotional lessons taught once a week using “Second Steps” program
 - ▶ Mindful Mondays
 - ▶ Restorative Circles

What Does Tier I Look Like in MC Schools?

King Middle

- ▶ Classroom Guidance led once a month by school counselors
- ▶ Guidance Advisory- teacher led lessons once a month during enrichment

What Does Tier I Look Like in MC Schools?

Mercer Central

- ▶ Social/emotional lessons to homerooms once per week
- ▶ “Why Try” curriculum taught 2 times per week to freshmen

What Does Tier I Look Like in MC Schools?

Mercer Senior High

- ▶ Social/emotional learning taught 2 times per month in 4th period
- ▶ “Respectfulness” research based curriculum to all students

Why Does this Matter?

- ▶ Senate Bill 1 mandates PREVENTION
- ▶ ACES study (witnessed or experienced abuse, divorce, poverty)
60% have experienced 1; 25% have experienced 3 or more
With even 2 ACES, chances of heart disease, stroke, obesity, suicide, & depression skyrocket!

****At MCIS 27 reported cases of abuse/neglect in 4 month period & 15 suicide threats**

Tier I matters because EVERY child matters!

School Counselors are the only profession uniquely trained to deliver a comprehensive school counseling program

A Success Story...



Total Number of Major Disciplinary Infractions Aug. -

Nov:

- ▶ 2018: 140 (40 on bus)
- ▶ 2019: 84 (32 on bus)

A HUGE 40% DROP!

Future Needs

School Counselor Ratio

ASCA Recommendation is
250 to 1

State Mandate is MHP's at
250 to 1

Our Ratio:

Counselor: 600-700 to 1

Director of School Based Mental Health Services

Oversee all mental
health initiatives & RTI
interventions

Seek grants/community
partnerships for
increased services

Create unity & efficacy
of curriculum across
schools

Community Buy- In

Many view as “only for
troubled kids”

Better communication of
benefits and results

Move from theory to
practice