



## Barnstable United Elementary School

### Principal's Comments

The BUES School Counseling Department serves an invaluable role for our school community. Our school counselors, school psychologist, school adjustment counselor and SEAD Coach operate with every student's academic, social and emotional wellbeing at the forefront each and every day. With an office run efficiently under the management of our Administrative Assistant, I am confident that the needs of BUES students will continue to be well served!

### School Counseling Program

The BUES counseling program provides service to grades 4-5 to aid in the personal/social, academic and emotional development. Currently there are two school counselors with a total school population of 819 students. There are 419 students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 410 students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The department also includes a school psychologist, a social worker, a social emotional academic coach and an administrative assistant.

- Amy Beth Veara, Counselor Grade 5
- Jen Delaney, Counselor Grade 4
- Jen Wolf, School Psychologist
- Kerri Moll, Social Worker
- Dylan Bissonnette, SEAD Coach

The team collaborates and meets weekly with other staff including the administration, school nurses and special education department. Counselors have weekly meetings with their grade level staff. Counselors work one to one

with students daily and weekly and facilitate small groups. Every morning the counselors are matched with classrooms to facilitate morning meeting and support implementation of social emotional curriculum. Counselors meet weekly for Professional Learning Community time to continue to develop curriculum and resources around SEL and PBIS. In accordance with the district wide initiative to educate the whole child, members of our counseling staff are attending ongoing trainings on the use of the Collaborative Problem Solving Model (CPS). The purpose of using CPS is to assist teams in identifying lagging social emotional skills and develop interventions to address these difficult behaviors. Seven staff members have participated in the Tier 1 training and ongoing consultation. The team has assisted in incorporating the Second Step Curriculum across the school settings. This school year, we started teaching the Child Protection Unit (CPU) component of the Second Step Curriculum. The students in fourth and fifth have learned important safety skills that will help them stay safe during dangerous and abusive situations. Finally, staff aid in the transition, placement and orientation of incoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders and outgoing 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

### Tiers of Student Support

- Tier 1 - All students received instruction in the classroom through the use of the Second Step Curriculum and Responsive Classroom. Students were explicitly taught behavioral expectations through the use of the Kindness Rocks Behavior Matrix. As an opportunity to process their behavior at a Tier 1 level, students problem solved in the Reflection Room. This provided an opportunity for students to develop a variety of skills around behavior management.
- Tier 2 - Small group instruction provided by school counselors reinforcing skills practice in the classroom.
- Tier 3- One to one or small group targeted explicit instruction to address

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recurring challenging behaviors.  
Creation of a student support plan to support the student across all settings.

recognize student successes, as well as, assisting with developing skills.

**Program Results**

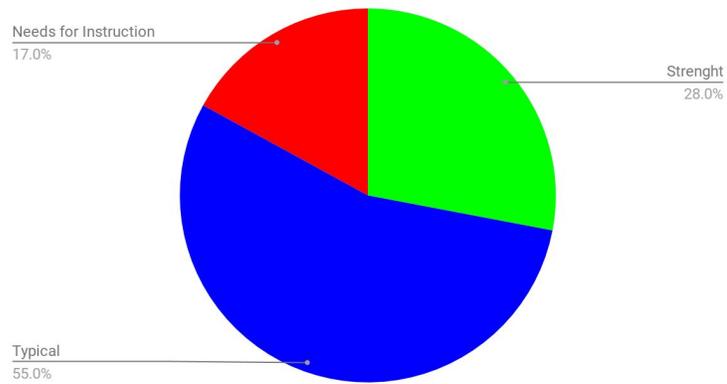
In October, classroom teachers assessed students Social Emotional Skills through the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA). The DESSA is a strengths-based behavior rating scale that measures the social emotional skills that help students do well in school, at home, and in the community. The department used the initial results to identify students who need further skill instruction through intervention groups. Counselors used Second Step and DESSA curriculum during these groups to target identified lagging skills. Google Classroom was used to provide teachers with information on the social emotional curriculum, Second Step, and small group interventions. Teachers were surveyed again in the spring to assess the progress. A decrease in students falling in the Need for Instruction category was noted, from 17% to 15%. The department looks forward to using a similar method in the fall to target social emotional reports.

In addition, this year the school counseling department again hosted the kindness challenge.

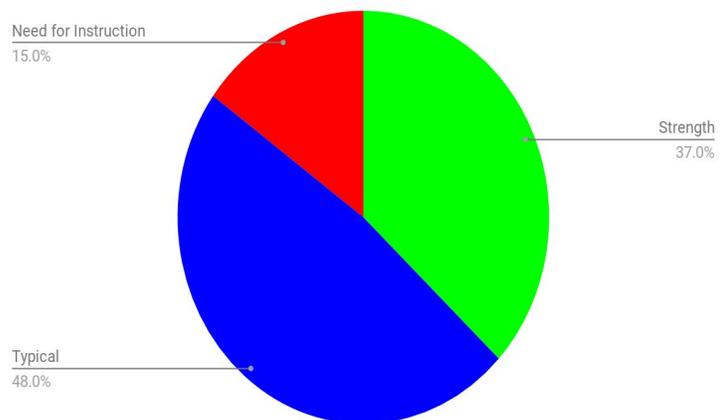
**Focus for Improvement**

In the 2019 – 2020 school year, the department would like to continue to support the district initiatives around educating the whole child. This includes further training and implementation of the Collaborative Problem Solving Model. We would like to continue to develop upon the use of the Second Step Curriculum and further align with small group interventions. This may include providing resources for classroom teachers around morning meetings and assisting with the use of Collaborative Problem Solving throughout the school. The department also looks forward to supporting the further implementation of Responsive Classroom. The school counseling department looks forward to meeting student needs through programs that

October 2018 DESSA Rating



Spring 2019 DESSA Rating



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