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# **A Note from the Executive Director**

### Introduction

#### **ABOUT SSHS**

Sacramento City Unified School Distric

(SSHS) department was formed in 2014, when the former Integrated Support Services and Health Services departments were joined together to focus and foster the overall wellbeing of students and their families. SSHS was made complete when the Foster Youth Services program joined the department in 2017, and, thanks to COVID-era federal funds, has grown to roughly 200 highly trained, expert employees whose integration into District and individual school communities has continued to infuse the evidence-based, whole-child perspective into our educational culture.

SSHS is made up of three divisions: Health Services, Foster Youth Services, and Student Support Services. Within these three divisions live mandated and evidence-based services and programs such as:

504 Accommodations coordination, training, and oversight

Community Schools Grant & Implementation

**COVID-19 Contact Tracing** 

Daily Direct Medical Care and Emergency Care Planning

Foster Youth Services

Health Insurance Enrollment

Home Hospital Instruction and Medical Independent Study

Homeless Education Services (McKinney Vento Act, AB 1608)

Immunization Clinics

LGBTQ+Support Services

Mental Health Crisis Response Team

#### Overview

Many have the COVID-

<sup>1</sup> has been widely documented, as

The National Center for Education Statistics continues to report a significant decline in K 12 student mental health since the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup>

In California, the number of students experiencing frequent sadness is increasing, while student-reported wellness is decreasing.<sup>4</sup>

While 72% of California students report f

feeling a sense of belonging at their schools, and only 63% reported feeling safe.5

While Federal, State, Local and SCUSD leaders work to understand the root causes of these problems and find their solutions, teachers continue to do their best to educate, and SSHS staff continue to work in partnership with students and their families at filling in the gaps that keep them from accessing their education.

In 2023-24, SSHS again offered a record number of interventions and supports, especially in the areas of health, mental health, and basic needs:

Highest number of mental health linkages ever recorded (1,398);

Highest number of suicide risk assessments ever recorded (565);

A 53% increase in conflict resolutions and peer mediations (1,343);

Highest number of caregiver supports ever recorded (2,011);

Highest number of Tier 2 basic needs linkages (2,939) and Tier 1 basic needs distributions (27,443) ever recorded; and

Hi est recorded number of 504 Accommodation Plans (1,327)

All of this accomplished with a relatively small number of staff, 46 which is funded by COVID-19 Recovery roughly staffed at ratios and the staff of the staff of

Sup to students.<sup>7</sup>

As a contract of the future - and the fiscal cliff posed by the endir are appropriately concerned about the capacity of a concerned about the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Uni States Department of Health & Human Services (2021). 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>United States Department of Education. (2022). d gd g d la la g a la g .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Cal fornia Department of Education. (2024). California school climated health, and learning surveys.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Sacramento City Unified School District.(2024).

## More Than a Student: The Work in Stories

and

caregivers as they face and overcome barriers is a privilege. Sharing their stories in an effort to help our larger community of educators and decision-

## MORE THAN A STUDENT NTOINE

In September 2023 Antoine:

#### MORE THAN A STUDENTUCY

Already struggling with courses and fearful she might not graduate on time, Lucy learned six months before the end of her senior year that she was pregnant.

Both brave and terrified, Lucy leaned into her new role as a young mother. Like new mothers of all ages, Lucy struggled with the reality of the demands of her newborn, and especially struggled to balance them with the responsibilities of being a student.

When she met

Students Program (PPSP) Coordinator, Lucy was considering putting graduation on hold. The PPSP

and validated her feelings, securing her role as a

Counselor, **School Nurse**, and each of her teachers to rally them in support of this student and the very real possibility that she could both be a young mom  $\varepsilon$  a high school graduate.

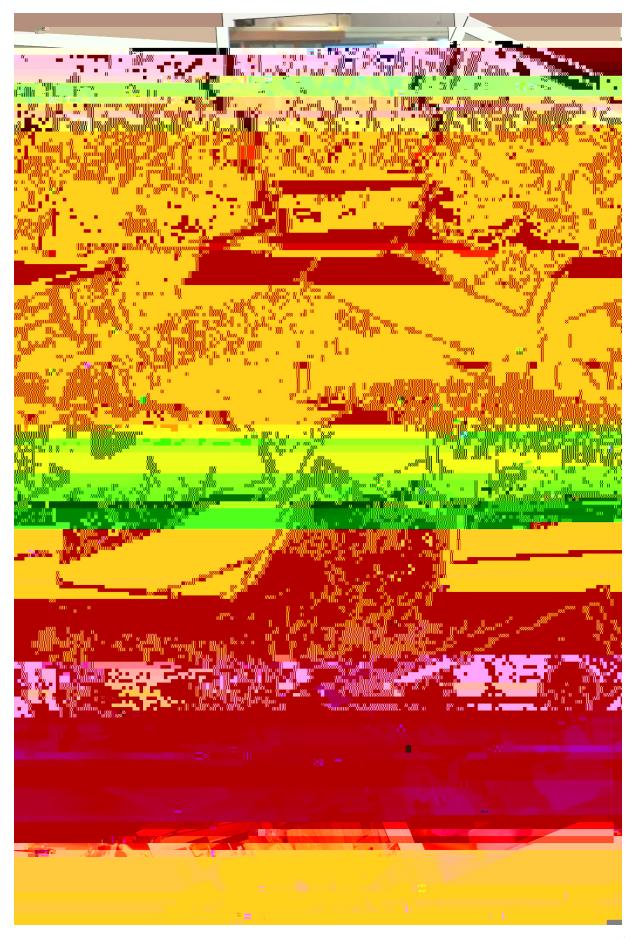
Together the team put their arms around Lucy, who

### **TIER 2 TARGETED SUPPORTS**

With only eighty staff to serve 38,00

4,951 students (an unduplicated count) with 26,749 Tier 2 interventions during the 2023-24 school year. Our team of 42 school nurses in the Health Services division provided an additional 1,833 Tier 2 interventions.

SSHS Tier 2 Supports by Category, 2023-24



## **Looking Ahead**

In 2024-25 and beyond, SSHS will continue to center the wellbeing and achievement of students and families, by maintaining the high-quality, evidence-based, responsive supports we have come to be known for across the District. We will also be working on these exciting projects and initiatives:

Continuing implementation of the Community Schools model and framework across the District;

Learning & Care;

Leveraging the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) once again, ensuring SCUSD representation in this statewide data collection effort;

Continuing to hire and train School Nurses to increase capacity of providing diabetes direct care for students;

Launching the Student Mental Wellness Council, increasing youth voice in SCUSD mental health awareness and intervention efforts; and

Working with District leaders, community partners, and grant-making organizations to sustain the 44% of staff funded by exhausted one-time funds.

# **Budget & Staffing**

## STAFF

Position	# of Positions	Total FTE
Executive Director	1	1.0
Foster Youth Services Division		
Coordinator II, Foster Youth	1	1.0
Youth Services Specialist	1	1.0
Foster Youth Program Associate	7	7.0
Clerk III	1	1.0
Division Total	10	10.0
Health Services Division		
Coordinator II, Health Services	1	1.0
Coordinator II, 504 & Educational Supports	1	1.0
Lead School Nurse	2	1.8
School Nurse	42	38.59
Health Services Technician	3	3.0

#### SCUSD BOARD AND STAFF

**Board of Education** 

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Lisa Allen

**Deputy Superintendent** 

Mary Hardin Young

**Executive Director, Student Support & Health Services Department** 

Jacqueline Garner, LCSW

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Alma Lopez Alysia Nordberg Alyssa Beck
Amaya Weiss Amber Henrichs Amie Harp
Ana Roldan Angela Marley Angeline Andal