



Dr. James Thompson, Jr  
Superintendent of Schools

**Bloomfield Public Schools' Student  
and Family Assistance Centers**

Improving Student Outcomes



# Every Opportunity Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxyxywShewl>



# District Accountability Plan

- Priority 1: Holistic Accountability
- Priority 2: Rigorous Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Priority 3: Positive School Climate
- Priority 4: Family and Community Engagement



# Project Goals

Established by U.S. Dept. of Education

- To increase counselor-to-student ratio
- To decrease disciplinary offenses
- To design a Tier I, II, III prevention based model of service implementation



# Project Objectives

- To design and implement a K-6 integrated district-wide model of elementary counseling
- To institute the Student and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) in 3 schools
- To establish sustainability of the SFAC model

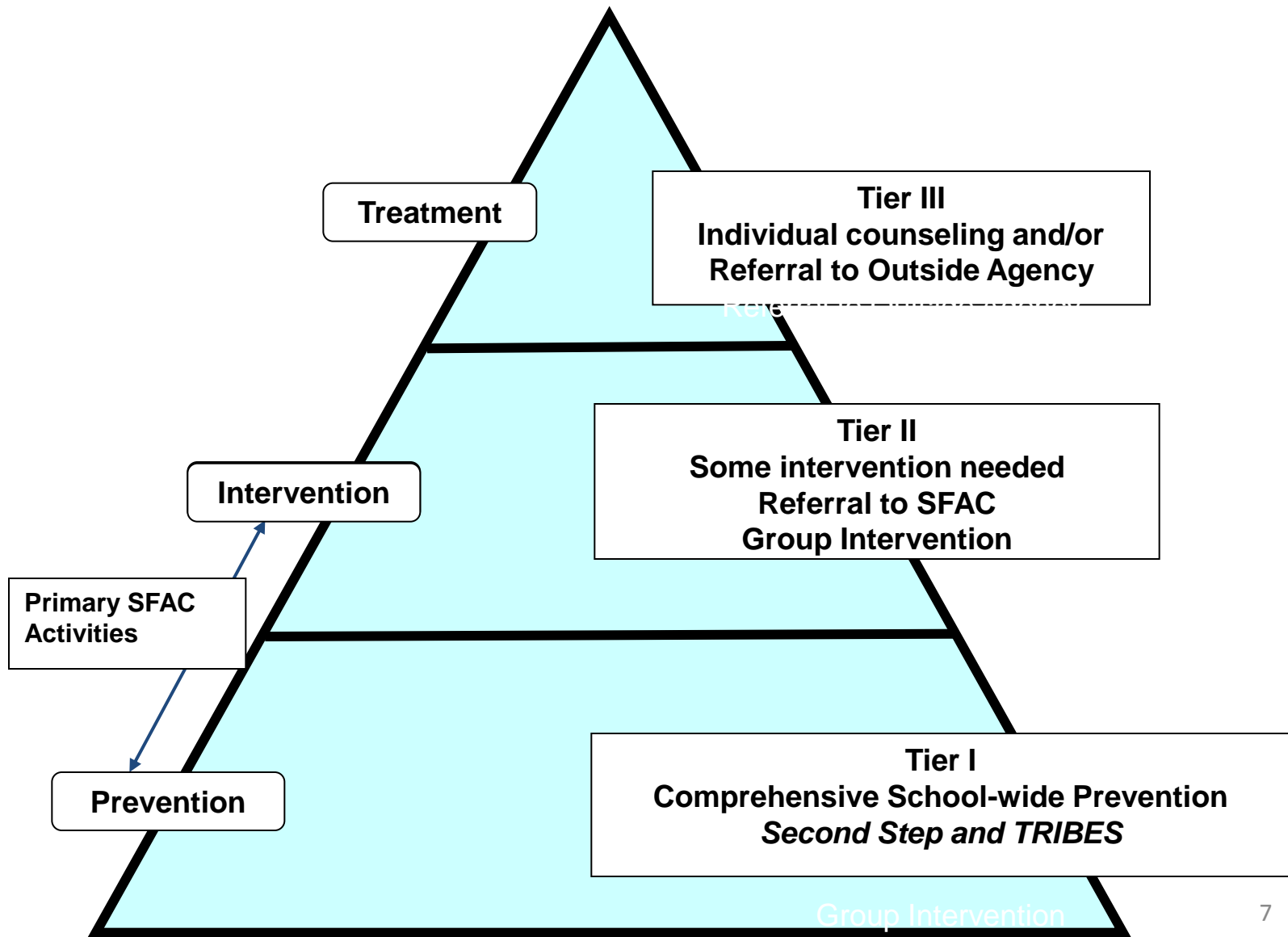


# Participating Schools and Staffing

- Three schools: Laurel, Metacomet and CAIS
- Three full time SFAC Program Specialists:
  - Gloria Tardif, LMSW – Laurel Elementary School
  - Regina Lester-Harriat, LMSW – Metacomet Elementary School
  - Amy Paluska, LMSW – Carmen Arace Intermediate School
- 15 Graduate level MSW interns (2015-2016)
- Project consultants
- Evaluator



# STUDENT & FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER MODEL





# Student & Family Assistance Center

**Prevention Based Efforts**

- **Second Step Violence Prevention**
- **TRIBES**
- **School-wide Bullying Prevention**
- **Character Development**
- **Social Skills/Life Skills**
- **Classroom Presentations**

**Collaborate with Universities**  
 Field Placement for graduate interns.  
 Social Work Interns-MSW

UConn School of Social Work  
 Springfield College School of Social Work  
 University of Saint Joseph  
 Central Connecticut State University

**Intervention Based Efforts**

- **Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI\_**
- **Individual Counseling**
- **Group Counseling**
- **Check & Connect**
- **Grief/Loss Counseling**
- **Conflict Resolution**
- **Family Engagement**
- **Academic Cumulative Review**

**Coordinated Support Services**

**Members Include:**

- **Administration**
- **School Support Staff**  
SRBI Process
- **Parents**
- **Community Based Organizations**

**❖ Data Driven**

- **Reduce Office Referrals/Suspensions**
- **Increase Academic Engagement**
- **Improve Attendance**

**❖ Utilizing Data Systems**

- **SFAC Database**
- **Interviews/Observations**

**Group and Individual Counseling**

- **Social Skills**
- **Emotion Regulation**
- **Self-Esteem**
- **Weekly Sessions**
- **Parental Contact**

**Transition Services**

- **School-to-School**





# 2015- 2016 Outcomes

Overall numbers include:

- All classrooms received prevention programs in each of the 3 schools which impacted approximately 800 students
- 79 Groups were conducted, serving 203 students.
- 40 students received individual counseling



# Disciplinary Referrals

- Baseline (2013-2014): 1863
- Year 1 (2014-2015): 1587
- Year 2 (2015-2016): 1238



# Results for Individual Counseled Students

- Goals varied, however the following topics emerged:
  - Improve social skills
  - Improve attendance
  - Improve social/emotional well-being
  - Improve academic engagement
    - 82% demonstrated improved skills
    - 14% remained the same
    - 4% decreased their skills



# Results in Group Counseling

- Goals varied, however the following topics emerged:
  - Social skills
  - Academic engagement
  - Social/emotional well-being
  - Conflict resolution
    - 75% demonstrated improved skills
    - 25% remained the same
    - <1% decreased their skills



# Cost Effective Model Example

- One full-time MSW at each school
- 15 graduate level interns (each year) over 3 years providing significant services to Bloomfield students
- **Approximately 19,000 hours** of intern time over three years
- **Approximately \$825,000** to fund comparable supports
- **Sustainability Efforts Beyond Funding**
  - Potential Training Model for College and University Interns
  - College and University Partnerships



# Research Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programs

- ❑ Second Step Violence Prevention Program
  - Validated by U.S. Dept. of Education
  - Reduces aggressive behavior and improves pro-social skills
- ❑ TRIBES
- ❑ Check In Check Out
  - Promotes student engagement
  - University of Minnesota
- ❑ SRBI Process



# Professional Development for Interns

## Professional Supervision, Training and Support

- Individual and group supervision
- Group work facilitation
- Assessment tools
- Conflict resolution/Mediation skills
- Suicide assessment
- Mandated reporting
- Prevention and intervention programs/strategies



# Implications of Implementation

- Scheduling
- Parent/Guardian consent
- Culture shift
  - Building level staff support
  - Proactive based model of intervention
- Sustainability





# Future Possibilities

- Expansion (Pre-K – 12)
- Utilization of Check & Connect at the secondary level



# Classroom Intervention Resources

- [www.pbisworld.com](http://www.pbisworld.com)
- [www.secondstep.org](http://www.secondstep.org)
- [www.checkandconnect.org](http://www.checkandconnect.org)
- [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)
- [www.cfchildren.org](http://www.cfchildren.org)
- [www.wholechildeducation.org](http://www.wholechildeducation.org)



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