

# Student Services Highlights 2020-2021

Prevention Programming and the entire Student Service Department are committed to providing districtwide comprehensive, evidence-based, drug and violence prevention programming (K-12) and interventions in order to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors in children and youth.

- High school students enrolled in the **PAL (Peer Assistance and Leadership)** course (Peer Helpers) were trained in skills to help themselves, support their peers, and mentor elementary students throughout their learning community. Because of the pandemic elementary students were served virtually. The PAL students provided support and skill building in the areas of decision making, communication, problem solving, conflict resolution, goal setting, grades, behavior, and attendance.
- High School enrolled students in the **PeaceKeepers** course (Peer Mediation) learned the process of mediation; the mediators were available to conduct Peer Mediations both virtually and in person. These students learned a more peaceful way to resolve conflicts, learned better communication skills, and a more positive way to handle their own anger because of being a peer mediator and or participating in a mediation. High School Peer Mediators received additional training in the helping skill, limits, self-care, communication, etc.
- The **Teens Offering Peer Support (TOPS)** program continued both virtually and in person on secondary campuses. Students expressed feeling supported by their TOPS sponsor and the other students in TOPS. Students also stated that TOPS provided a safe place to discuss important issues: stressors caused by the pandemic, bullying, peer pressure, substance use, depression, suicide and other mental health issues, eating disorders, communication, and anger management.
- The **LIFT Teams** received 81 referrals. These referrals resulted in interventions including mentoring, counselor check-ins, silent mentors, TOPS referrals, and Intervention Counselor support. Lift Referral sources: 83% central or campus staff members, 6% counselors/intervention counselors, 10% peers/concerned friends, and 1% parents.
- **Drug Prevention and Intervention** - During Red Ribbon Week campuses Prevention Programming provided resources and lessons addressing vaping and substance abuse prevention. High school peer helpers and mediators delivered virtual lessons for elementary campuses focusing on decision making and refusal skills. The Right Step provided a drug prevention and education webinar for parents and the community. A Student and Parent THC Intervention class was held for students assigned to CMLC for a THC drug violation.
- **Dating Violence Prevention** - Students were provided opportunities to learn about healthy relationships through counselor guidance lessons, Health class curriculum and SEL lessons focusing on establishing and maintaining healthy relationships. High School Mediators produced PSA on healthy relationships for the HS and JH campuses. Hope's Door New Beginning Center provided a webinar for parents and secondary students on the awareness and prevention of teen sexting. RISD and RPD hosted a webinar panel discussion on legal, physical and emotional next steps after a relationship has become

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unhealthy or dangerous for HS Students, Staff and Community. (See additional highlights under Title IX)

- **Child Abuse Prevention** training in recognizing and reporting signs of abuse was required for all RISD staff as part of the Region 10 compliance package. Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting Posters were provided for all campuses and district buildings.
- **Bullying Prevention** training was required for all RISD staff as part of the Region 10 compliance package. Staff and students received additional training by campus administrators and counselors. Students were encouraged to report all bullying behavior to a trusted adult and were also provided methods for reporting anonymously. Consultation and support was provided to campuses responding to allegations of bullying. A parent education webinar focusing on prevention of bullying and cyberbullying was provided by Prevention Programming and RISD SRO's.
- **Crisis Information and Crisis Hotlines** were provided to Campus Counselors, Intervention Counselors, Peer Helpers, and Peer Mediators Students. These groups were encouraged to share these resources as needed.
- **Crisis Response** - The RISD Crisis Support Flight Teams provided campus support for 5 different crisis situations involving the death of a student or staff member.
- **Social and Emotional Learning** - Student Services - SEL Division facilitated the direct instruction of Social & Emotional Learning at all elementary schools (Harmony SEL (PK-5), Second Step (EL-5), Second Step Middle School (6)) and junior highs (Second Step Middle School). The SEL division also developed original lessons for high schools to teach during advisory or another protected time for SEL.
- **Intervention Counselors** - RISD combined the junior high level Responsive Services Counselors and the high school level Student Assistance Counselors into a cohesive group to create the Intervention Counselors. These secondary level counselors work with students at the Tier 2 and Tier 3 levels for social-emotional issues along with working with our At-Risk population. Intervention Counselors also work closely with CMLC to ensure students returning have a person to connect with at their home campus and create Transition to Learn plans for students returning from CLMC. Overall, Intervention Counselors help students with additional time, resources, and services when they need a higher level of support.
- **Community Resource List** - Counseling Services and other school personnel routinely use the district's community resource list to connect students, staff, and families with outside resources. This year, we took the lengthy list and created an [internal Google site for community resources](#) that can be updated as needed with new information. This included information on Covid rent relief and assistance with resources as a result of the winter storm during February 2021. This website is utilized by many staff members daily and has added clarity and made our already amazing resources easier to use, which in turn provides faster services to our families.

# Student Services Highlights 2020-2021

- **McKinney-Vento** support services served and supported 500 plus families in the 20-21 school year. RISD was awarded a competitive grant of \$85,000 annually for 3 years. We will be supporting our MKVO students with necessary support that they will need to be successful in school.
- **After-hours Counseling Program** - Many families/students have benefited from the After-hours counseling program. We have served over 100 students/families the past 2 years in the after hours counseling program. We offer 6 free counseling sessions to students who might benefit from counseling outside of the school day. We were able to help support families and students with social and emotional assistance outside of the regular school day.
- RISD implemented a new **Title IX investigations division** to support the new **2020 Title IX federal amendments** which added specifically, legally binding steps that schools must take in response to notice of sexual harassment. A primary goal of this division is to take appropriate steps to prevent issues of sex discrimination and to provide on-going training for campus administration and central staff. The new regulations require that “Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process” must receive training. All RISD administrators received training regarding the new regulations. In addition, a 1-hour virtual follow-up training was conducted with all 55 RISD campus administrative teams, as well as several central office departments including human resources, student services and after-school program staff. RISD partnered with the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center to provide this professional learning. Partnership with law enforcement from the Richardson and Dallas police departments help to ensure the safety of all RISD students and staff when conducting investigations. Campus administrators have voiced a sense of relief knowing they have support from the central office to help them navigate through tough situations. In an effort to bring Title IX awareness to the student level, the Title IX division is partnering with Prevention Programming to utilize secondary peer mediators to help other students understand the importance of reporting and how to report issues that fall under Title IX.
- **Student Services Administrators** completed over 1000 residency check/wellness checks to re-engage families with the school environment.