

Liberty-Benton Local School District Student Wellness and Success Plan FY 2025

Liberty-Benton Local School District is in compliance with Ohio's strategic plan for education. According to HB 166, we have created and documented critical components of the Liberty-Benton Local Schools Student Wellness and Success Plan. We have identified areas of need through a district strategic plan, district data, district report card, and school surveys.

District Goal

To better serve student physical, social, emotional, and mental health needs to promote a safe, supportive learning environment.

Identified Gaps in Services and Resources

Liberty-Benton Local Schools is a growing school district. Because of this growth, we identified a need for a full-time school nurse, a licensed clinical counselor, and a school therapy dog to better support our student's physical, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Outcome Data: Student discipline data (improved, stayed consistent, decline). Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Data (improved, stayed consistent, decline). School climate survey data (staff/students) (improved, stayed consistent, decline).

Funding Sources:

- a. DPIA
- b. Base cost student wellness and success
- c. Remaining student wellness and success funds

Description of Initiatives

Initiative 1: Licensed Clinical Counselor: Counselors provide multiple resources throughout the school year to support both students' academic and social-emotional growth. Counselors remain an integral part of services that benefit students and their families. Students benefit from individual attention, emotional supports, and life coaching. Our licensed clinical counselor provides supports to Liberty-Benton students in all three buildings and works in conjunction with our school guidance counselors, and also serves on our building threat assessment teams.

Anticipated Impact: Available to 1543 students, on as needed basis.

Initiative 2: School Nurse: Liberty-Benton has a licensed, full-time nurse, that provides a multitude of student supports. Our nurse conducts all required screenings such as vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings, monitors required vaccination records, advises our administrative team on health-related best practices, provides daily medical care for students, educates students on a variety of health-related topics, and also serves on our building threat assessment team.

Anticipated Impact: 1543 students

Initiative 3: School Facility Dog: In 2022-2023, we obtained OTIS from the Ability Center in Toledo, Ohio. A team of educators were trained as handlers and Otis joined our staff. Otis makes classroom visits, participates in school activities, and also assists our elementary guidance counselor during counseling sessions. The positive impact he has had on our students is immense. Through our Leader in Me initiative, a middle school LIM action team conducted the research, including student and staff surveys, to support the expansion of this initiative to the middle school. We have applied for another school facility dog in the middle school and are on a wait list for dog availability.

Anticipated Impact: 610 elementary students and 431 middle school students.

Initiative 4: School Counselor: Liberty-Benton Local Schools employs three full time guidance counselors in addition to a licensed clinical counselor. Each guidance counselor is assigned to a building and serves the students therein. The guidance counselor supports student mental health through various age-appropriate programs, as well as through individualized counseling with students. In addition to supporting student mental health, guidance counselors assist with developing student schedules, assist with special education services, and help students discover and pursue post-secondary options upon graduation.

Anticipated Impact: 1543 students

Initiative 5: Physical Trainer Service: The district employs a physical trainer who provides sports medicine services in support of our student athletes for all school sponsored sports in grades 7-12. The scope of these services include:

- A. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home and away varsity football games.
- B. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home JV and freshmen football games.
- C. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home varsity, and home junior varsity boys' soccer games.
- D. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home varsity, and home junior varsity girls' soccer games.
- E. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home varsity and home junior varsity girls' volleyball games.
 - a. Athletic Trainer/Sports Medicine Specialist services at home girls' volleyball tournaments (Liberty Benton High School to be invoiced in addition to the contract as outlined below)
- F. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home varsity and home junior varsity boys' basketball games.
 - a. Athletic Trainer/Sports Medicine Specialist at home basketball tournaments (Liberty Benton High School to be invoiced as outlined in the Fee section below)
- G. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home varsity and home junior varsity girls' basketball games.
- H. Sports Medicine Specialist services at all home wrestling matches
- I. Sports Medicine Specialist services will provide Site Visits throughout the school year as outlined:
 - a. Two (2) site visits per week, 2:45pm – 4:00 pm throughout the fall, winter, and spring sports season
- J. Orthopedic referral within 24-hour notice.

Anticipated Impact: 684 students

Initiative 6: Begindergarten: The district provides early intervention for students who are kindergarten aged but did not achieve a proficient readiness score through kindergarten screening. Our Begindergarten program is designed to provide interventions for one year for students who are not kindergarten ready. The program builds skills so that students can successfully transition into kindergarten the next school year. Early intervention is a research based best practice prevention service.

Anticipated Impact: Approximately 17-20 students annually.

Initiative 7: Student Resource Officer: The district employs a Student Resource Officer who is highly visible and works proactively to build relationships with students k-12. The SRO works with the administrative team to provide campus security, and is a member of our Threat Assessment Teams. The SRO provides numerous safety intervention programs and presentations with and for students each year in each building ranging from:

- School Bus Safety for Drivers
- Grades 5-8 Vape Education
- Halloween Safety
- Speaker at County Wide Teacher Staff Development Day on Sextortion (all teachers in Hancock County)
- Grades k, 2-3 Bicycle Safety
- High School Leadership Day: Situational Awareness
- Sextortion to all LB staff
- Grade 12: Sextortion
- Grades 7, 10 Online and Social Media Safety
- Active Shooter Threat Response feedback for all elementary students and staff, and all middle and HS staff

Anticipated Impact: 1543 students