

# School-Based Mental Health Services Grant

- The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a five year grant to FCPS for \$13.5 million to support a [School-Based Mental Health \(SBMH\) Services](#) project.
- Goal: Increase the number of credentialed school mental health service providers delivering school-based mental health services to students in LEAs with demonstrated need.
  - SBMH service providers include school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists

# School-Based Mental Health Services Grant: Context

- National shortage of school psychologists and school counselors
- Recruiting, hiring, and retaining SBMH staff is highly competitive
- FCPS has carried multiple vacancies for SBMH staff, which has impacted service delivery
- Hiring and retaining more SBMH staff will enhance our ability to:
  - Provide prevention and early intervention services
  - Increase student access to school-based mental and behavioral health services
  - Provide targeted and timely mental health consultation to families and teachers
  - Reduce caseloads and ensure greater attention to student needs

# School-Based Mental Health Services Grant: Details

- This grant project will focus on enhancing the division's recruitment and retention practices for SBMH professionals.
- Project activities in 2023 include:
  - Funding to support recruitment and retention of professional staff
  - Expanded professional development opportunities and mentoring for SBMH provider skill development and leadership growth
  - Enhanced support for SBMH internships and other training opportunities to strengthen our ability to attract and retain the best qualified future SBMH providers

# School-Based Mental Health Services Grant: Timeline

- January 2023: Grant awarded; \$2,351,965 available for Year 1 (2023)
- March 2023: Begin robust recruitment efforts & hiring of qualified staff
- March 2023: Provide PD funding to SBMH staff
- June 2023: Assign internship supervisors and mentors
- Similar process for Years 2-5 (2024-2027)