



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



WSCC Emotional Well-Being Learning Collaborative

December Community of Practice Call
Environments That Are Emotionally Safe and Promote
Belonging

CDC National Initiative to Advance Health Equity in K-12 Education
by Preventing Chronic Disease and Promoting Healthy Behaviors
Priority 2: Emotional Well-Being

**National Center for School Mental Health &
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning**





Agenda

Inclusive Welcome

Connecting WSCC & RISE to Today's Session

Environments That Are Emotionally Safe and Promote Belonging

Thomasville City Schools – Building Relationships with Students

Breakout Group – Goal Setting

Intentional Close

Action Items

Feedback Survey





Center for Supportive Schools: Who We Are

CSS helps schools become places where students want to be.

We help leverage the resources in schools to create more caring and vibrant learning communities.



**Developing all
students into
leaders**



**Empowering teachers to
collaborate with each other
and with students**



**Engaging entire school
communities to improve
how learning happens**





Inclusive Welcome

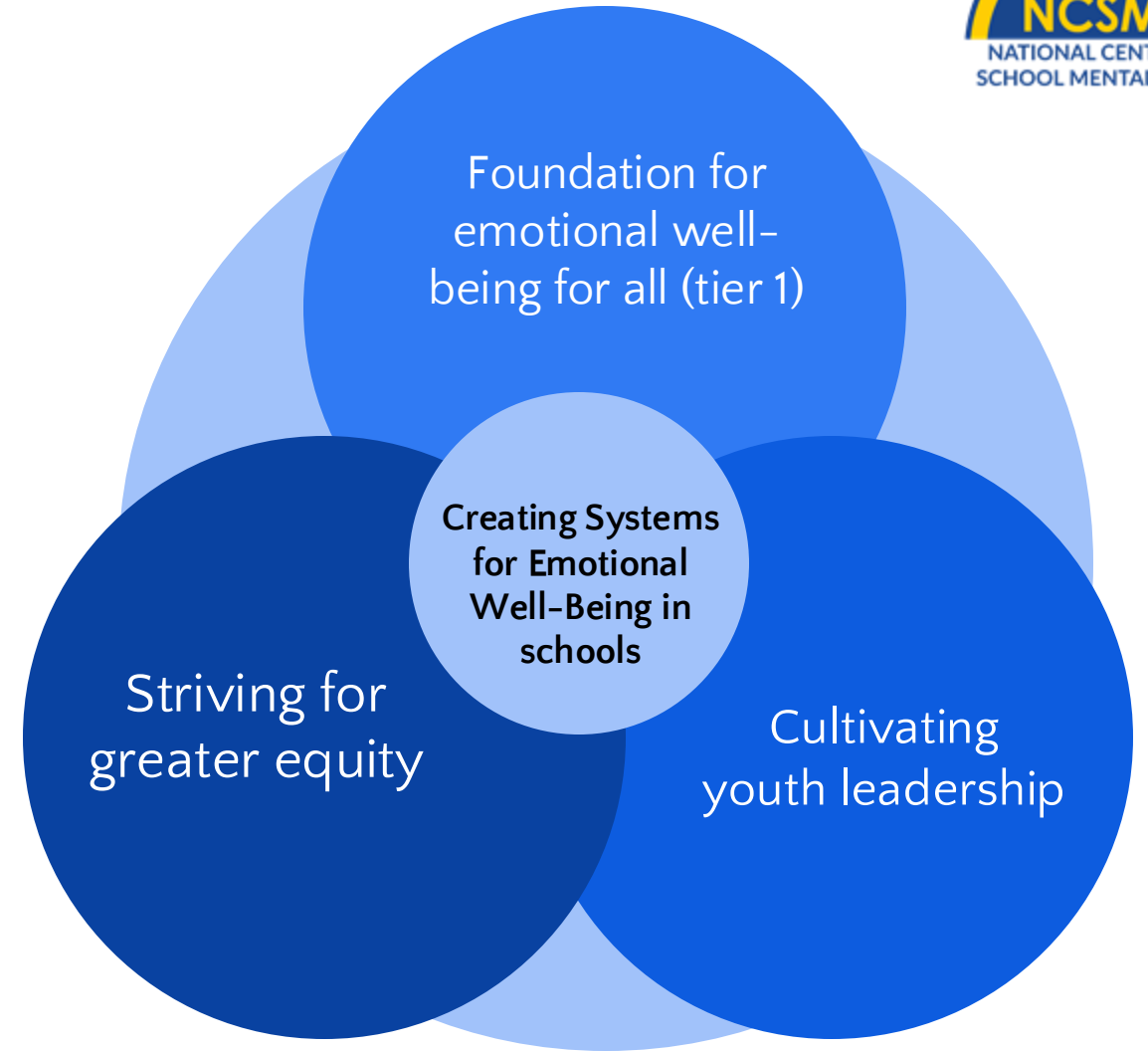
Think back to your earliest leadership role – formal or informal. What did leadership look like for you?

- What support made this possible?
- Who were some of your adult allies, what would you want them to know?



WSCC Emotional Well-Being LC

Content Focus Areas





Connecting WSCC & RISE



Relationships

Intentional learning experiences

Skills development

Environments that are emotionally safe and promote belonging





Environments That Are Emotionally Safe
and Promote Belonging



Experiences of Youth in School



Being 12





Reflections & Ideas from Youth Leaders

Youth leaders shared their thoughts and ideas **about equity in their schools.**

What their schools do well:

"My school promotes equity by making sure everyone is accommodated for their needs and making sure their needs are met."

"If we miss an assignment due to absence, our teachers will find ways for us to make it up or give us an extension on those assignments. They also give extra credit opportunities. As well, taking some class time to make up work."

"Our school supports our cultural differences and also gives us all the same educational opportunities."

"My school does a good job of making sure that the students are heard and cared for. They do activities that are not just academic but will make us excited."



Youth leaders shared their thoughts and ideas **about equity in their schools.**

What are some barriers and ideas for improvement:

"Sometimes the financial status gets in the way because either there isn't enough money to meet the students' needs to create equity, or the school district is too preoccupied with trying to raise more money, therefore they neglect the need for equity."

"Continuing to make sure all students are included, no matter race, religion, or ethnicity etc."

"Helping students learn instead of just giving them the work and making them do it."

"Create ways for students to be kept accountable for their work."



Youth leaders shared their thoughts and ideas **about creating equitable, emotionally safe environments that promote belonging and what these types of environments look and feel like.**

"Reassuring all students that they are able to talk to a trusted staff member or teacher and giving them support."

"Schools could be more inclusive of cultural holidays – Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month – helps people feel a greater sense of pride."

"It feels like knowing that you are safe and know that you belong even if you don't talk to anyone. Teachers and other trusted adults can make you feel valued and that your presence is welcomed."

"Create a vibe in the classroom that supports students and you feel like you are at home."



What can we do about this?





Let's chat!

Share in chat or click the raised hand button to chime in.

What questions do you have about the information shared?

What is coming up for you?

What curiosities do you have about what's been shared?

Building Relationships with Students - Culturally Responsive Practices





Our Vision

Thomasville City Schools will engage, inspire, and empower students to graduate ready for a successful life in a globally competitive world.

Our Mission

Thomasville City Schools works together with families and community to provide personalized learning opportunities for all students in a safe, caring, and innovative environment.



Our Values

In Thomasville City Schools, we believe in the four pillars of Bulldog Nation:

Excellence

*We strive to be
our
best each day*

Diversity

*We promote equity
and respect the
unique attributes of
all stakeholders*

Unity

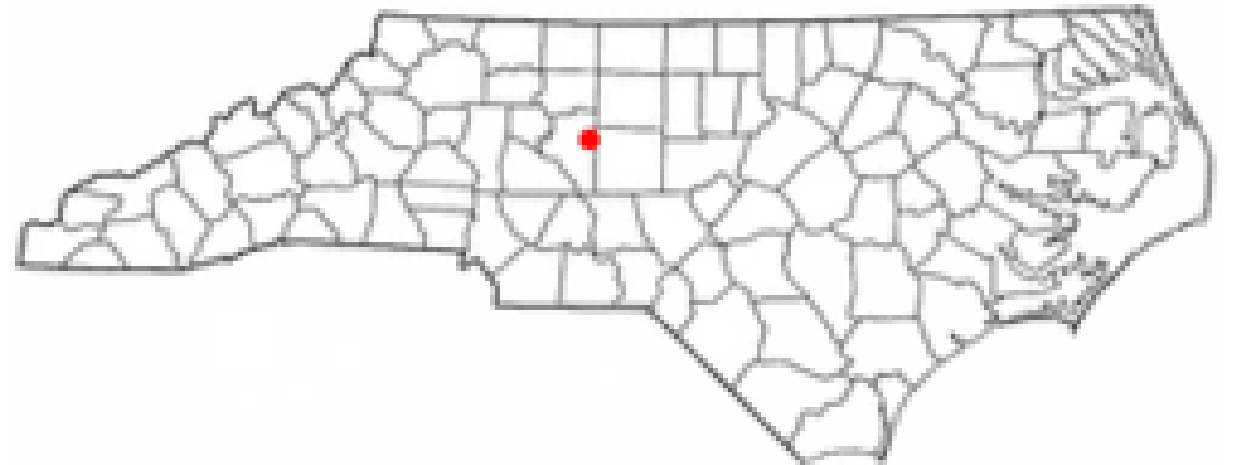
*We represent
one city,
one district,
one vision*

Pride

*We embrace our
traditions and
commit to continued
growth*

Thomasville, NC

- Located in the heart of NC
- 4 schools: Thomasville Primary (K-3), Liberty Drive (4-5), Thomasville Middle, and Thomasville High School
- Title 1 school district
- 2,200 students
- Demographic data:
 - American Indian or Alaska Native: 7
 - Asian: 12
 - Black or African American: 819
 - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 1
 - White: 303
 - Two or more races: 184
 - Hispanic or Latino: 865
 - 1,120 male
 - 1,080 female



TCS Relationship Building Initiatives

- Celebrating culture and diversity through events such as Hispanic Heritage Night, Black History Month, MLK Oratorical Contest, Multicultural Night
- Student Services Department visits to MV, homebound, or students with low absences
- Parent Academy Nights: If we can engage parents and guardians, their students will most likely be more engaged as well
- Student participation in SHAPE assessments
- School based therapy in all 4 schools

Thomasville Primary and Liberty Drive:

- SEL classroom lessons with counselor
- TPS has an AI robot that works with students that have mental concerns

Thomasville Middle School:

- Communities in Schools Newcomer Groups
- Small groups with local organization focusing on bullying, hygiene, and social skills

Thomasville High School:

- Adopt a senior program / MTSS mentorship
- Peer to Peer mentoring
- Student clubs
- Future Focused, Career Ready conference
- Community organizations: Free haircuts, coats, shoes, etc

Goals for this school year

- Increase teacher buy in for SEL initiatives
- Implement peer to peer mentoring programs
 - Sources of strength
 - High school students mentor younger students in district
- Strengthen the culture of safety and security in our schools so all stakeholders actively participate in fostering a safe and accountable environment, in order to help students feel secure and empowered



Questions?





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State Breakout Group Time



Youth Leadership Summit Day 2

- **December 12, 2024, 12-2 PM EST/11-1 PM CST/10-12 PM MST**
- Participants: Youth Leaders; District Youth Liaisons, & all District & State team members
 - Adult and Youth Leader conversations





Breakout Groups

Main Objective: As you are setting your state, district, and school goals, consider how the youth voice will be included.

- What is the role that youth are playing?
- How is this driving equity in your work?



Reminder - Goal Setting & Making Progress with Your Goal

Sharing your goal progress: in our monthly calls, each school/district will have time to provide an update on their goal:

- Is your state/district/school making progress on the goal?
- Describe the status of your goal and/or challenges
- What support/resources do you need from us?

Support your district/school in tracking:

- What is working? What needs more support?
- Your progress and celebrating your small wins!



Intentional Close

What stood out for you when hearing what the youth shared about equitable, emotionally safe environments in their classroom and schools?





Action Items

1. Take time to focus on your own well-being.

2. Meet as a team to continue to engage in data reflection & refine your action planning goal.

3. Plan to attend Day 2 of the Youth Leadership Summit on Thursday.





Feedback Survey

- Please take 1-2 minutes to provide feedback on today's session
- Click on the link in the chat OR;
- Scan the QR Code



2:00



Thank you for joining today!

Next Monthly Call:
January 14, 2025

Remember to visit
e4ed.com to access our
Learning Collaborative
Resources, and Monthly
Call Slides





WSSCC Emotional Well-Being LC Communications

Contact: Dr. Zahra Ladhani - zladhani@som.umaryland.edu

Websites: schoolmentalhealth.org
casel.org

Listserv bit.ly/NCSMH_listserv

CASEL Newsletters: [Newsletters - CASEL](#)

Social Media



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