August 2, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO:       City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM:     Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
           State Superintendent of Education

RE:       Funds for 2020 School-Based Mental Health

The Alabama Legislature has appropriated funds for 2020 to expand school-based mental health services. Clearly, the need for this prevention/early intervention work has become a priority of elected officials. The foundation, built by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Mental Health following the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy of 2012, has demonstrated that it is one avenue that is viable and successful in preventing such future events.

Along with that recognition comes a very heightened level of expectation for success. Ms. Lynn T. Beshear, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health, and Mr. Nicholas Moore, Governor’s Education Policy Advisor and Coordinator of the Governor’s Office of Education and Workforce Transformation, met on June 5, 2019, to discuss next steps. It was determined that procedures must be developed to ensure the best use of the appropriated funds and to provide firm accountability and tracking of critical data and information. In order to proceed with further discussions, there are specific questions that must be answered by August 9, 2019. Questions can be accessed through the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdV2J3zKve4DO5a01ln35wzt_hf0rAn-bT3bR997KZvQaBxgA/viewform?usp=pp_url.

If you have questions concerning the school-based mental health services questionnaire, please contact Mrs. Tina Sanders, Special Education Services Section, at tsanders1@alsde.edu or via telephone at (334) 694-4782.

EGM/TS/BJ

cc:       City and County Special Education Coordinators
          Dr. Daniel Boyd
          Dr. Elisabeth Davis
          Ms. Crystal Richardson
          Ms. Alicia Hodge
          Mrs. Tina Sanders

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