Comprehensive School Health Services (CSHS) Performance Measures

What are the seven performance measures for Models and Affiliates?

1. Decrease in the percentage of students who are chronically absent (Target – 3% decrease annually). (Chronically absent refers to the percentage of students who were absent 10% or more of their total number of student days of membership in a school. Source: DESE)
2. Increase in the percentage of ELL students assessed for unmet health care needs by nursing services (Target – increase assessments by 10% annually).
3. Decrease in the percentage of students who are overweight or obese (Target - 1% decrease annually).
4. Increase in the percentage of students who are identified as experiencing symptoms of depression and/or anxiety, or suicidal ideation, and are not currently receiving behavioral health care, that are referred for mental health services by school health/counseling staff (Target – increase by 10% annually).
5. Increase in the percentage of students who are identified as homeless or marginally housed assessed for unmet health care needs by nursing services (Target – increase assessments by 10% annually).
6. Increase in the percentage of students who have special healthcare needs (e.g. asthma, autism, ADHD, diabetes, life-threatening allergies, seizure disorders, diagnosed mental health disorder) with an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) developed (Target – 50% IHCPs developed).
7. Increase in the percentage of students who fail a screening (vision, hearing, postural, BMI, SBIRT) with a referral made (Target – 85% of referrals made).

What data sources can be used to assess each performance measure?

In general, DESE data and school district data can be used to assess performance measures.

Possible data sources that can be used to assess each specific performance measure include:

- Absenteeism: DESE attendance data (historical and sorted by student group), and current attendance data from the Student Information System (SIS)
- ELL: electronic health record (EHR) system and SIS
- Overweight/obese: screening records (for students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10) and EHR system
- Behavioral health: EHR system
- Homeless: EHR system and homeless liaison reports
- Special healthcare needs: EHR system
- Referral: EHR system

How often are performance measures assessed and reported?

Performance measures are assessed annually at the end of the school year and reported using the status report form (online).

What happens if a performance measure target has not been met?

If a performance measure target has not been met, a plan for improvement must be developed using needs assessment data, a racial equity lens, evidence-based interventions, and quality improvement methods. If multiple targets have not been met, it is recommended that the district select one measure and provide a plan for improvement (selecting a different measure each year).
What are some possible starting strategies for improvement in performance measures?

Possible starting strategies for improvement in performance measures include:

- **Absenteeism:**
  - Identify absenteeism early in the school year
  - Identify students absent in lower grades (elementary)
  - Target interventions at racial/ethnic subgroups with greatest absenteeism
  - Create interventions for students with asthma

- **ELL:**
  - Flag the ELL students in the EHR
  - Query EHR system monthly to identify ELL students not seen

- **Overweight/obese:**
  - Review evidence-based strategies
  - Focus interventions on subgroups (i.e., race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status) with the greatest percentage of obese/overweight students
  - School meal and food policies
  - Increase opportunities for daily physical activity

- **Behavioral health:**
  - Use the EHR to track students with mental health issues
  - Improve outreach, especially to subgroups disproportionally impacted

- **Homeless:**
  - Track all data elements in EHR system
  - Query EHR system to identify students for follow up

- **Special healthcare needs:**
  - Run a monthly query of students with special healthcare needs without IHCPs
  - Identify missing IHCPs by race/ethnicity subgroups

- **Screening Referral:**
  - Improve the referral tracking and follow up system
  - Use EHR to track referrals and completed referrals
  - Run a monthly query of students who fail a screening but don’t have a referral
  - Check for disparities by race/ethnicity

What resources are available to schools for reporting performance measures assessments?

If a school needs help reporting performance measures assessments, the following resources may be able to provide assistance or guidance:

- If you need help with your EHR system, contact your EHR vendor's technical support department or ask another CSHS district that uses the same EHR system.
- Regional consultants and other nurse managers may be able to provide additional guidance.
- Printable worksheets and guides that are emailed to the nurse manager at the beginning of the year.
- Online data collection forms (include additional instructions and tips for using the online tool).
- For data questions, email Kathrine.A.Mansfield@mass.gov or robert.leibowitz@mass.gov (not for financial questions)
- To submit updates on staffing changes or changes to an email address, email karen.robitaille3@mass.gov