

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The School Board approved the initial Interagency Agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families in January 1999. Subsequently, the agreement was expanded to include ChildNet, Inc., CareerSource Broward, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Area 10, and the Florida department of Juvenile Justice Circuit 17. The agreement is further being expanded to include the local managing entity overseeing the state-funded mental health and substance abuse services, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition. According to Section 39.0016(2), the Department of Children and Families is required to enter into an agreement with the Florida Department of Education and local educational agency, SBBC, regarding children known to the department who are of school age and younger who would otherwise qualify for services from SBBC. Locally, the Agreement was expanded to include additional stakeholders to increase the effectiveness of the sharing of information, and the intent the statute.

The purpose of this Agreement is to promote collaboration among SBBC, DCF, ChildNet, CSBD, APD, DJJ, and BBHC to ensure educational access and related care, including post- secondary pursuits, promote job training and employability skills and facilitate the delivery of services or programs to children known to the department, to avoid duplication of services or programs, and combine resources to maximize availability or delivery of services or programs.

Prior to 2013, former SBBC general counsel advised the Dependency Courts Liaison that sharing of information was prohibited and subsequently, the Agreement was not renewed. In 2013, The Uninterrupted Scholars Act amended FERPA to permit schools to share the educational records of children in the dependency system with caseworkers, and other officials in the child welfare system and specifically authorizes schools and school districts to release a student's educational records when the agency or organization is legally responsible for the care and protection of the students. FERPA requirements also prohibit improper disclosure of personally identifiable information from school records. In May 2016, the newly appointed Dependency Courts Liaison and new General Counsel discussed the renewal of the expired agreement to clarify SBBC's position on sharing of educational records. SBBC's General Counsel advised that the sharing of information related to the children indicated is appropriate, and in conjunction with FERPA and Florida Statute 39.

During the remaining months of 2016 and specifically through the summer of 2017, carefully detailed revisions to the Agreement were recommended by SBBC's newly assigned General Counsel contract manager, the parties involved in the prior Agreement and the newly requested party, based on current and new legislation and protocol, not limited to the Every Student Succeeds Act and the newly created DCF State Agreement with the Florida Department of Education.

The District shall provide student information as per statute and rule and as defined by this Agreement. The intent of all the parties is the increase in service equity for dependency care students.

These timeline specific occurrences resulted in the delay of the Agreement being presented to the School Board for approval.

There is no financial impact to the District.