



March 16, 2022

Dear Caledonia Community Schools community,

This winter, Caledonia Community Schools launched a listening tour to get public input on the use of ESSER III funding. We held several forums for our students, our staff, and our community, to engage in meaningful consultation with each stakeholder group and take into account their input. As a follow-up to those conversations, we are excited to share that we have heard your requests for more social, emotional, and mental health support for our students. Providing student support services (counseling, physical & mental health wellness resources) was consistently identified as a high priority based on student, staff, and community feedback.

While not all of our ESSER planning is complete, we clearly recognize this need and starting tomorrow we will be seeking qualified applicants for additional counseling (student support services) positions so that we can better support our students!

National, state, and local data consistently indicate student needs are increasing for school-aged youth. Dr. Martin and Katie Dorband shared the following statistics during this week's Dialogues with Doc:

- According to a recent White House Fact Sheet, “mental health emergencies among young people have increased across the board. In 2020, there was a **24% increase in emergency room visits for mental health reasons for children ages 5 through 11 and a more than 30% increase in visits for those between 12 and 17 years old.**
- “The truth is, schools have been the de facto mental health provider for children and young adults for a long time now,” said Patricia Graczyk, an assistant professor of clinical psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Only one in five students who need mental health services receive them. Among those who do obtain help, 75% receive the services solely through their schools. (Pew Research)

We would like to thank our students, staff, and community for their feedback. Together we will make a positive difference in the lives of our students and staff. We are excited about the impact this additional staffing will provide for our students.

Sincerely,

CCS Administration