

School Based Child and Family Support Teams Initiative

Presentation to the
North Carolina General Assembly
Joint Legislative Education Oversight
Committee

North Carolina
Departments of Public Instruction and Health and Human Services
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What is the CFST Initiative?

A DPI/DHHS joint initiative developed through the leadership of the Office of the Governor to help at-risk children avoid failure in school and out-of-home placement by coordinating services among education, health, mental health, juvenile justice and social service agencies.

CFST Initiative Basics:

■ **Authorized and guided by legislation**

- Session Law 2005-276 (2005 Appropriations Act)
- Session Law 2007-323 (2007 Appropriations Act)
 - Only change in 2007 from 2005 is to require the director of a school-based or school-linked health center as a member of the Local Advisory Committee

■ **100 Nurse/Social Worker Teams in 101 schools located in 21 LEAs**

- The 21 LEAs are supported by:
 - 22 County DSSs (12 state funded DSS Facilitators)
 - 13 Local Management Entities (18 state funded LME Care Coordinators)
 - 22 Local Health Departments (no state funded positions)
 - 18 Department of Juvenile Justice / Delinquency Prevention Districts (no state funded positions)

■ **State-supported personnel**

- Nurses and social workers allocations through DPI
- Program Coordinator position through DHHS
- Training and evaluation funds through DHHS

■ **Managed by the NC Child and Family Leadership Council**

- Co-chaired by DPI Superintendent and DHHS Secretary and includes the Chairman of the SBE, DJJDP Secretary and Director of the AOC
- Staffed by the Department of Administration

■ **Evaluation by Duke University's Center for Child and Family Policy**

CFST is 100 Teams in 21 LEAs & 101 Schools

- Alamance/Burlington (7 Teams)
- Anson (5 Teams)
- Bertie (4 Teams)
- Caldwell (5 Teams)
- Duplin (6 Teams)
- Durham (7 Teams)
- Forsyth (7 Teams)
- Greene (4 Teams)
- Halifax (4 Teams)
- Hoke (4 Teams)
- Hyde (2 Teams in 3 schools)
- Martin (4 Teams)
- McDowell (4 Teams)
- Nash-Rocky Mount (4 Teams)
- Pamlico (4 Teams)
- Person (3 Teams)
- Richmond (4 Teams)
- Scotland (7 Teams)
- Swain (3 Teams)
- Vance (6 Teams)
- Wayne (6 Teams)

How are CFST Schools Different?

(Compared to non-CFST Schools)

- 3rd grade retention rate (4.2% to 1.9%)
- 5th grade retention rate (1.3% to 0.6%)
- 8th grade retention rate (3.6% to 1.6%)
- Elementary grade level reading (75% to 84%)
- Middle grade level reading (78% to 85%)
- Elementary grade level math (49% to 64%)
- Middle grade level math (49% to 60%)
- Elementary % students at grade (60% to 72%)
- Middle % students at grade (60% to 69%)
- High % students at grade (54% to 68%)

The CFST Teams Serve At-Risk Students By...

1. **Identifying** the most at risk of academic failure or out-of-home placement due to social, legal, mental health, physical health, academic, developmental reasons
 - Focus is on the children most at-risk of academic failure or out-of-home placement
2. **Conducting** strengths-based family centered holistic assessments
 - Purpose is to identify the primary unmet need that causes the child to be at risk.
3. **Collaborating** with other agencies to provide in-depth case management services to assure the needs of students are adequately met
 - Services are provided by the agency most suited to fill the primary unmet needs identified during the assessment
 - Services planned through the use of Child & Family Team Meetings

Who were the 7,617 Students Served in 2006-2007?

– 55% male 45 % female

– Race:

- 52% African-American
- 33% White
- 4% Native American
- 11% Hispanic

– Grade

- pre-K-2nd (22%)
- 3rd-5th (23%)
- 6-8 (32%)
- 9-12 (22%)

– Referral reasons:

- 20% retained 1 or more years
- 38% excessive absences/tardiness
- 28% health concerns
- 22% mental health concerns
- 19% low income
- 25% inappropriate behavior
- 15% suspended
- 15% aggressive behavior

What did the students and their families say about the CFST?

- Of the 493 parents who responded to surveys:
 - 95.4% rated their CFST experience to be “very good” or “excellent”
 - 93.5% would recommend CFST to another family
- Of the 220 high and middle school students who responded to surveys:
 - 62.3% said there are more adults at school who will listen to them
 - 47.3% said they get along better with teachers
 - 52.7% said they feel better about school
 - 55.9% said they are doing better in their school work