

Roosevelt High School

Findings from School Years 2018-19 and 2019-20

Every youth should have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential, which requires that school environments be safe and nurturing for all. Disruptive or unsafe student behavior can be addressed in inclusionary, effective ways. Current practices of school-based arrests are inherently exclusionary, and their use – and overuse, among some student demographics, such as students of color and students with disabilities – has typically led to negative educational and social-emotional outcomes for youth.

Minnesota’s School-Based Diversion Model for Students (MN SBDM) seeks to address disruptive and unsafe student behavior in a way that is effective, and keeps youth in school – and out of the juvenile justice system.

Minnesota’s School-Based Diversion Model (MN SBDM) provides a decision-making protocol for student incidents and presents an opportunity for schools and law enforcement to work together as a shared decision-making authority to address students’ academic, behavioral health, and criminogenic needs. The model emphasizes a variety of approaches to meet the needs of students. Critical elements of the triage system include: involvement of families at every stage; referral for screening, assessment, and treatment for early identification of youth at risk for juvenile justice involvement; and development and access to preventive and supportive resources within the school environment.

DHS provided \$19,500 of funding per school year

In SY2018-19 and 2019-20, the MN School-Based Diversion Model served students at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis. Roosevelt’s MN SBDM Team included: Alexis Gonzalez, core team leader/admin; Andrea Leal, School Resource Officer; Karen Jimenez-Smith, mental health/SSW; Liz Larson, check-in counselor.

It also included behavior team members Damaris Juarez, Kavon Martin, Thom Skelly, Kevin Baker, Francisco Holguin, Sharonda Smith, Shirleen Wright, Michael Ronayne, Qaman Mohamed, and Signia Tariq Mohamed.

Roosevelt High School MN SBDM student metrics

School year	Enrolled	Referred into	Declined	Served by
2019-20	866	44	5	39

Note: Metrics for school year 2018-19 is not available

“It is nice to have a team to process with when building support for students.”

—Staff reflection

“I have never really had school focus on helping me outside of grades.”

—Student reflection

MN SBDM responses to behavioral incidents



- Applied restorative practices (e.g., conducted a chat or circle)
- Informed parent/s or caregiver/s



- Referred to a behavior support team
- Referred to principal or school administration



- Screened/assessed for co-occurring disorder
- Screened/assessed for trauma

Types of behavioral incidents that led to student referrals to MN SBDM:

- Bullying
- Disruptive behaviors toward another student, staff, volunteer, or visitor, including verbal fighting WITHOUT physical contact or insubordination/refusal to comply with reasonable requests or rules
- Drug or alcohol usage/possession (not distribution)
- Electronics violation
- Fighting with physical contact/physical assault
- Inappropriate dress/language
- Insubordination/refusal to comply with reasonable requests or rules
- Tobacco use or paraphernalia, including vapes
- Vandalism
- Weapons possession

What has the School-Based Diversion Model meant to Roosevelt High School?

“ We have a group that is consistently looking at student actions in the school, and working to intervene with the students before those actions escalate, or transform into negative behavior outside of school. ”

—Staff reflection

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MARCH 2021