



The Bethlehem Area School District (BASD), utilizes a multi-faceted approach when it comes to school safety. BASD examines areas of physical site safety (target hardening) as well as behavioral health, climate and school culture through various applications to include policy/procedure, programs, training and equipment. It is our belief that safety cannot exist in a vacuum wholly based on the physical. School safety thrives when the wellbeing of all parties involved in the greater school community are addressed through various lenses, I will mention each briefly.

Physical Site Assessments, conducted by a certified assessor provide a roadmap for individual buildings to address strengths and weaknesses. The assessors reported recommendations, when reflected upon honestly, serves as a “to do” list to ensure that best practices are followed. These recommendations can address exterior concerns such as fencing, lighting, landscaping, door/window numbering, appropriate signage, locks, and camera coverage. Interior recommendations will address cameras, door locks, window shades, man-traps, vape detectors, panic/door prop alarms, chemical storage, kitchen safety equipment, SRO/security personnel etc. The list can be quite daunting and often requires monies either budgeted, or from grant sources to address.

A Behavioral Health and Climate Assessment should also be conducted in collaboration with the Physical Assessment in order to get a full picture of overall school safety. This assessment examines school policies and procedures, conducts staff and student interviews, examines programs in place related to SAP, Threat Assessment, Suicide Screeners, S2SS, Multi-Tiered Support Systems, Restorative Practices, as well as other programs designed to address school climate and culture. As with the Physical Assessment, recommendations are made to align schools with best practices.

S2SS/Handle with Care

Like every district in Pa, BASD went live with the S2SS Anonymous Reporting Platform in January of 2019. Additionally, BASD was one of a few districts to pilot the United Way's Handle with Care (HWC) program. HWC partners each district with the law enforcement entity(s) that have jurisdiction over them. A HWC tip is reported by police through the P3 Tip Manager when a student has experienced some sort of trauma. This tip is then forwarded to the student's appropriate school, so that staff has an awareness and may respond appropriately. HWC went live in September 2020. To date, BASD has responded to 1313 S2SS Tips, of those 390 were HWC.

Threat Assessment

BASD has 23 Threat Assessment teams for the district, one for each building, and we utilize the CSTAG method in accordance with the Public School Code of 1949, Article XIII-E, Threat Assessment (Act 18 of 2019). As of end of year 2024, a total of 605 Threat Assessments were conducted with roughly 88% being of the transient variety.

Suicide Screeners

BASD has been digitally tracking our newest Suicide Screener that is housed within the NaviGate 360 Behavioral Health Platform since the beginning of school year 2022. In that time, to date, 797 screeners have been conducted. 50.4% are Low Risk, 24.3% are Moderate Risk, 17.4% are High Risk, and 7.8% are not defined.

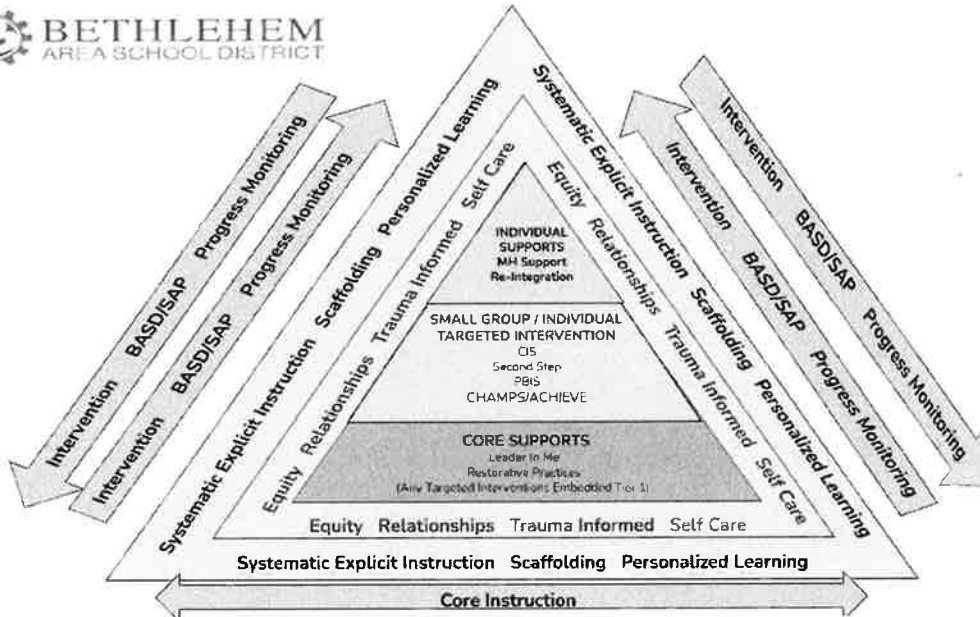
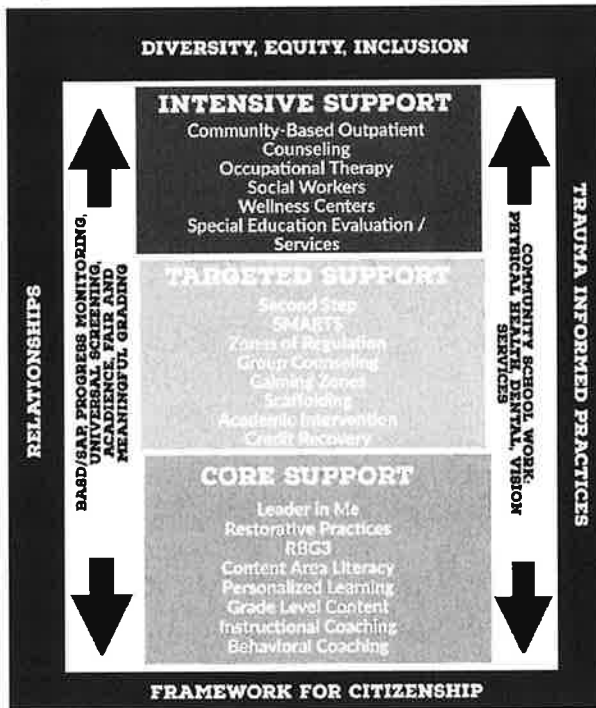
Training/Programs

BASD conducts all the required yearly State mandated trainings, including Act 55 Trainings which are overseen by the School Safety Coordinator. BASD also is involved with Sandy Hook Promise "Start with Hello" on the secondary level. Additional programs are as follows:

1. **BASD/SAP** - MTSS process that addresses students needs (academical, social, emotional, behavior) through a tiered approach to provide students the supports and interventions required to access the learning environment
 2. **Mental Health/Behavioral Health Services** through licensed counselors provided during the school day
 - a. All BASD schools (22) are certified as an out-patient clinic - students access through medical assistance or third party insurance
 - b. BASD directly contracts with a local agency to provide services
 3. **Project Impact/School Justice Panels** - BASD has partnered with Project Impact and Lehigh/Northampton Counties to provide an alternative to the adjudication process, a school based diversion program for secondary students that are first time offenders and charged with summary offenses &/or misdemeanors.
 4. **Leader In Me** - K-8; A program to help establish a culture of character and leadership with teachers and students based on the idea that every child can be a leader
 5. **Restorative Practices** - K-12; To support in improving daily school climate and culture by providing safe and equitable structures for relationship building, relationship repair, the development of critical SEL skills, building trust, and problem-solving
 6. **Resonance Education Consulting** - 9-12; Provides customized SEL learning modules focusing on coaching and implementation integrating these concepts into the delivery of the curriculum and classroom management/culture building.
 7. **TACT II/Therapeutic Behavior Management (TBM)** - De-escalation techniques; trainers
 8. **ABA Support Services** - BASD contracts for consultative, collaborative, and direct student services for students with an intense level of autism that cannot access the learning environment safely.
 9. **Trauma Informed Practices** - Administrators and teachers implement strategies that aim to create a safe and supportive learning environment for students who may have experienced a trauma
 10. **Zones of Regulation** - A curriculum that is designed to foster self-regulation and emotional control
 11. **SEIL Coaches** - BASD social emotional integration learning coaches provide staff with direct student intervention, consultation, and collaboration with the focus on implementation of tools/strategies to reduce student behaviors and increase engage in the learning process
 12. **Peace Rooms/Corners** - K-12; An area within the classroom or school that a student can go to clam down to regulate their mind and body
 13. **Wellness Centers** - BASD high schools provide a safe and supportive environment that provides a peace room with a collective of trauma informed practices and MH supports
- Check and Connect** - Is a structured mentoring intervention to promote student success and engagement at school and with learning through relationship building and systematic use of data

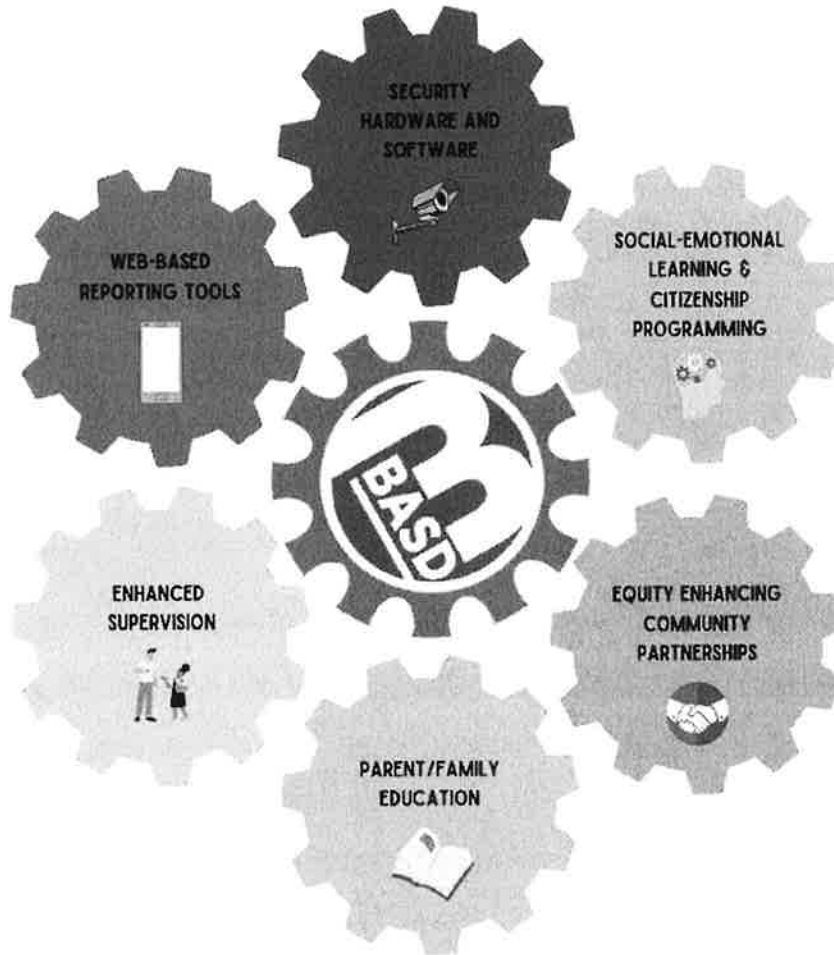


**BUILDING BETHLEHEM
SEL / ACADEMIC INTEGRATION**



BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL SAFETY & POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE



We at BASD believe that all that has been listed within this document serve to support a safer school community.

Respectfully,
Todd W. Repsher
Coordinator of School Safety