

Use of Funds – Student Wellness and Success:

Columbus Arts & Technology Academy [aka the Academy] will use Student Wellness and Success Funds to provide psychological services and targeted mental health support, focusing on promoting mental, emotional, and physical wellness. These funds will support PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) initiatives and social-emotional development through a variety of targeted interventions and services. Specifically, the Academy will:

- Allocate at least 50% of the funds for mental health services. This will include contracting with outside agencies to provide counseling services and hiring mental health professionals to support students and the school community.
- Provide targeted interventions such as NYAP for 1-1 counseling, HOPE RE-Connects for tier 2 interventions and leadership development for students identified in the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) process, STOP IT for class guidance, suicide prevention, and anti-bullying education.
- Integrate APFit for physical exercise programs, which will focus on promoting physical health, wellness, and positive behavioral outcomes for students.
- Organize a Mental Health and Wellness Day, featuring community vendors and resources to promote mental health awareness, wellness, and support for both students and their families.
- Offer parenting classes and family support services to strengthen family engagement and address the needs of the family as a whole, providing resources for better mental health, communication, and overall well-being.
- Collaborate with programs and organizations with lived experience to provide authentic, relatable support for students and families, ensuring that services are both culturally competent and aligned with the lived realities of those served.

Coordination with Community Partners:

To support the use of these funds, the Academy will partner with at least two community organizations during the 2024-2025 school year. These partnerships will include collaboration with community mental health prevention or treatment providers, as well as a local board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services. Additionally, the Academy will work with organizations that have lived experience in supporting individuals and families facing mental health, trauma, or addiction challenges. The community partners will provide services such as:

- Wrap-around services and individual counseling
- Group counseling and therapy sessions
- Tiered interventions for students requiring additional support, as well as resources for families and caregivers

Anticipated Impact:

The use of Student Wellness and Success Funds will significantly enhance the overall social, emotional, and physical health of the students and their families. These efforts will address

SWSF & DPIA 2024/25

ongoing challenges, particularly those stemming from the pandemic, and directly support Tier 2 and Tier 3 students in need of additional services. The Academy anticipates that these interventions will result in a 5-10% decrease in disruptive student behavior year over year, while fostering a positive school culture, improving mental and physical health outcomes, and promoting long-term wellness for both students and their families. By partnering with organizations with lived experience, the Academy aims to provide more meaningful and impactful support for those who need it most.