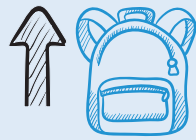# Behavioral and Mental Health
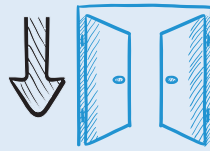
Young people need mental and behavioral health services that are quickly accessible, youth-friendly and culturally competent.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING AND WELL-BEING

In schools, mental health services support:

School attendance

Suspension and expulsion

School climate and supports

Academic engagement and achievement

TOO FEW DC CHILDREN RECEIVE THE MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORTS THEY NEED TO THRIVE

Nearly **1 IN 4** students in public schools have been identified as needing behavioral health services

However, in 2017 **ONLY 12%** of insured children and youth received these services

SOME YOUNG PEOPLE FACE GREATER RISK

The need to invest in culturally competent and youth-friendly services is clear:

LGBTQ middle school students report attempting suicide at **3X** the rate of their peers

Latina middle school students report attempting suicide at over **4X** the rate of their white female peers

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES
Behavioral and Mental Health

To be healthy and thrive, young people need mental and behavioral health services that are quickly accessible, youth-friendly, and culturally competent.

1. How can the District build and sustain a strong behavioral health system so that young people have what they need to address trauma, find confidence and become healthy young adults?

2. Nearly 1 in 4 students in DC public and public charters schools have been identified as needing behavioral health services; however, last year only 12% received those services. What steps will you take to ensure that youth who need behavioral and mental health supports are quickly connected to youth-friendly, and culturally competent resources?

3. How can the District to a better job of supporting populations of students who are at higher risk of suicide or self-harm?

4. How can the District prevent experiences that cause trauma or other behavioral health issues like depression, substance abuse or anxiety?

DC ACTION
FOR CHILDREN

DC
kids
count

DC ALLIANCE OF
YOUTH ADVOCATES