



Pace Reach Engagement and Outcomes

The Pace Center for Girls has served middle-school and high-school girls in Florida for 35 years with a focus on girls whose histories of trauma and adverse childhood experiences puts them at risk of school failure or involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. In 2009, Pace expanded beyond its model of all-day academic and counseling at its centers by creating Pace Reach, which places Pace counselors in public schools to provide the same counseling and wrap around services that Pace girls receive at the centers.

After quarantines began in March, Pace maintained its counseling services through a HIPAA-compliant virtual platform (Doxy.me). Pace's counseling is characterized by a strong engagement with each girl as well as regular contacts with parents to help them improve their relationship with their daughter and better harmonize their own interactions with Pace's approach. Pace's counseling and social services program includes case management to ensure that girls or their families are referred for, and receive, additional services needed.

Pace data collected during the pandemic shows a high engagement in Reach services, with an average of 91% of girls engaged and receiving services during the months of April through July. Data also shows a higher proportion of girls who successfully completed Pace Reach during the months of April through July of 2020 and improved family/peer and social relationships and decreased behaviors associated with delinquency when compared to girls completing Pace Reach during the same period last year.

South Carolina's "Missing" Students

Pace Reach seeks to decrease girls' risky behaviors by providing free counseling, therapy, life skills and case management services designed to increase their resiliency and protective factors through improved relationships with families, peers and their communities. Pace Reach aims to increase girls' self-efficacy and self-advocacy to make decisions that will lead to productive, fulfilling and healthy lives. The Reach Program consists of five primary components: 1) Holistic Assessment, Goal Setting and Plan Development; 2) Family/Teacher/Natural Supports; 3) Ongoing Behavioral Health Services including Care Management, Counseling and Therapy; 4) Girl- Centered Social-Emotional and Life Skills Development; and 5) Transition Planning focused on completion of the Pace program.

Expected outcomes from Pace's intervention include improved peer and family relationships; improved behavioral health; maintained or improved school attendance; and increased pro-social skills. Girls build confidence and resilience and a pathway toward identified goals.

Pace will focus on girls in South Carolina who have been identified as "lost" or missing from school since the inception of stay at home orders. Every girl referred to Pace is given a thorough assessment, including consultation with her family. Pace is trauma-informed and strength-based, so the focus of the resulting case plan is on a girl's strengths and her needs across all domains of well-being.

Pace Reach can serve 60 girls annually at a cost of \$300,000. Services can be provided to girls identified in South Carolina by DSS or the school district utilizing a HIPAA compliant virtual platform (Doxy.me).