

# Policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HORTONVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Board understands the importance of both physical and mental health in supporting all students to reach their fullest educational and personal potential. Providing mental health services to students in the school allows those students that need such services to access them without disrupting their educational pursuits and to provide access to the greatest number of students possible.

The District will assist in facilitating students' access to mental health services ("Services"), when appropriate through the Student Services Department and in conjunction with Catalpa Health from licensed agencies at the school. These Services are intended to provide support to a student in a way that minimizes intrusion into the student's day and are not intended to replace services provided by a teacher, paraprofessional, or any other staff member. Further, unless otherwise determined by an IEP team, Services are not to be considered a related service necessary for the provision of a free appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The provision of Services will be governed by agreement between the District and the licensed agency and will be subject to the provisions therein as well as the procedures set forth below.

### **School District Mental Health Professionals**

The Student Services Department is available to assist students with mental health concerns, including providing Services within the scope of the staff members professional abilities and/or licensure.

The Board shall make available mental health professional staff members to assist students in receiving specified Service, including:

- A. Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA), including, where available, specialization within the AODA field consistent with school community needs;
- B. Depression, anxiety;
- C. Survivors of abuse;
- D. Self-harm compulsion and/or suicidal ideation;
- E. Other.

Student Services shall maintain information regarding community-based and other types of mental health resources available for students who require more intensive Services or who suffer from more acute or chronic conditions. School staff shall coordinate with and collaborate with outside providers to provide continuity of services in and out of school. All Services provided by and/or coordinated by Student Services shall be available to students who participate only on a voluntary basis.

Any staff member who, in the course of providing mental health services to a student shall report any circumstances giving rise to suspicion that the student has been or is the victim of abuse or neglect (See Policy 8462 – Child Abuse and Neglect) or hears of a threat of violence that the staff member believes in good faith presents imminent danger (See Policy 8462.01 – Threats of Violence).

Board Approved 12/17/20  
Adoption Resolution 10/13/14

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## **Coordination of On-Site Services**

Where appropriate, Student Services may, in consultation with the student's building administration, provide access for on-site delivery of Services by independent, appropriately licensed and authorized, professionals subject to the following requirements:

All individuals providing Services must be working under an agreement between the District and a licensed agency and approved by the Board prior to commencing services. The Agreement shall specify the term of the Agreement, the amount of time intended to be spent on site, and all financial necessities.

All individuals providing Services must have on file with the District the following: (a) appropriate licensure and other required professional credentials; (b) evidence of appropriate insurance coverage; (c) completed and satisfactory criminal background check results and required State health information. All items on file with the District prior to commencing Services.

To be eligible to receive Services at school, students must have a signed Waiver and Indemnification Agreement and Consent for Release of Information on file with the District specifying the organization's plan for frequency of services, schedule for Services at school, and specifying any financial arrangements involved between the provider, the student, and/or the student's parents.

Services provided during class time must be approved by the teacher or building principal in consultation with the teacher. No such services shall be provided in class unless expressly approved by the teacher and building principal and only in such a fashion that no other student's privacy rights, record information, or educational interests are adversely impacted.

The provider must make it clear, in writing on file with the District, that the provider is not directly affiliated with the District, that the student is receiving Services from the particular agency, or organization such that the District's only involvement is coordinating the schedule and providing a suitable location for students to receive Services. The provider and/or agency is not delivering educational services or providing any service on behalf of or with the approval of or sanctioned by the District.

The District may refuse access to school facilities to any individual or agency for violating any expectations. No District officials shall advocate for students to receive services from any specific provider or agency, but may provide referrals, or information concerning resources available to students.

All providers are expected to adhere to Board policies while on school grounds and providing services to students.

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## **Establishing a School Site Clinic**

The Board authorizes the District Administrator to pursue opportunities for establishing a permanent on-site clinic or agency mental service operations through comprehensive agreement with third party organizations that are organized for the purpose of providing outpatient mental health services, specializing in child and adolescent Services. Such arrangements shall specify all requirements described above (for coordination of on-site services), and include details concerning the duration of the agreement, whether the agreement involves exclusive presence, and if so, what provisions are made to accommodate current students presently receiving services on-site from a different provider, and all financial commitments required of both parties.

No such arrangement may be finalized and / or commenced until such time as the agreement is approved by the Board.

## **Complementary Services**

The Services described in this policy and provided for through agreements entered into pursuant to this policy do not replace or eliminate other mental health and related services provided through IEP development, 504 plans, general school counseling services, and other student services available through District and partner resources.

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