

MPS Project AWARE Overview:

Explanation: MPS is dedicated to creating safe and supportive school communities that produce healthy and successful students by educating the whole child. Project AWARE High Schools are using DPI's Mental Health Framework to support the MPS vision and create trauma sensitive schools by implementing restorative practices into the tiered system of support in order to meet each school's mental health needs.

MPS AWARE Values

- Safety
- Trust
- Relationships and Community
- Respect

MPS AWARE Principles

- Acknowledgement that relationships are central to building community.
- Focused on safe and predictable environments sensitive to transitions and sensory needs.
- Empowers change and growth through data driven decision making and regular reflection.
- Tiered system of support is focused on creating and strengthening relationships and community and addresses misbehavior, harm and the need for any additional supports in a way that strengthens relationships and community connectedness.
- Models and promotes operating with equally high levels of accountability and support and uses the social discipline window as an interpersonal reflection tool.
- Includes community voice.
- Engages in collaborative problem solving and uses fair process decision making.
- Non shame based, restorative discipline practices that give voice to the person harmed and focus on the harm done rather than only rule-breaking
- Integrates mental wellness, destigmatization of mental illness, self-care and having open and honest conversations about mental health as part of creating a positive school community.

MPS AWARE Strategy

1. AWARE Coaches developed a Trauma Sensitive Schools Implementation Tool to serve as a guide for schools to:

- Establish an integrated leadership team which includes school administration, support staff and teaching staff
- Complete a needs assessment combining the Wisconsin School Mental Health Needs Assessment and the Wisconsin Trauma Sensitive Schools Fidelity Tool, in order to develop school-wide priorities
- Develop an action plan based on priorities identified

2. A Restorative Practices implementation team is being developed by identifying leaders within the school who are interested in receiving in-depth training and support for Restorative Practices in order to grow capacity within the school. Implementation team will work with AWARE leadership team to support the action plan and priorities identified.

3. Use the tiered system of support to incorporate Trauma Sensitive and Restorative Practices within all three tiers to provide a school-wide approach for implementation in order to best support school community mental health needs.

Tier 1: Universal and Preventative Practices

- Using trauma sensitive, restorative, gender neutral and anti-biased language
- Clear and consistent expectations derived from shared voice
- Small impromptu conferences
- YMHFA training to assist staff with identification and early intervention of mental health issues
- Proactive community building circle practices (ie. curriculum and community building circles, check-in/out circles, celebration circles, circles of support, staff meeting circles, PLC circles)
- Curriculum and restorative circles used for teaching and learning/practicing SEL skills
- Raise Your Voice, a student led club to increase awareness, inspire advocacy, and promote acceptance of mental health
- Creating a school calming and regrouping space
- Increased activities, groups and clubs for students and families that promote community connectedness

Tier 2: Early Intervention and Targeted Supportive Practices

- HOP Groups
- Reflection Rooms
- Harm and Conflict Resolution Circles for Students (lead by students and/or staff)
- Harm and Conflict Resolution Circles for Staff (lead by staff)
- Student Support Circles: SAIG Groups, Academic Intervention Groups
- Mental health tracking tool used to record tier 2 mental health supports used with students in the school
- Workgroup to establish a screening tool to assist with early identification

Tier 3: Intensive Support

- Re-entry plans which could include re-entry circles
- Community mental health referral and follow-up process
- Community and Family Restorative Conferencing
- RENEW

4. Data collection and progress monitoring