

# Southgate Independent School District

## District Trauma Informed Care Plan

2021-2022 School Year



### PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this plan is to address the trauma in the lives of children, families and staff served by the Southgate Independent School District. This plan promotes the understanding of trauma and its impact, ensures the development of trauma informed care across grades and provides trauma specific resources for staff. The plan will provide staff and families training and tools to identify trauma, provide resources to cope with trauma, and sustain trauma awareness in our school organizational cultures, practices and policies.

### DEFINITIONS

#### *Trauma-*

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being.

#### *Trauma-Informed Team-*

This team will consist of the school counselor, mental health specialist(s), FRYSC, school nurse and other administrators "to identify and assist students whose learning, behavior, and relationships have been impacted by trauma" (KRS 158.4416(3)(b)). This team shall also "provide training, guidance and assistance" to other school personnel on recognizing signs of trauma exposure, intervention strategies to support students who have experienced trauma, and develop a plan by July 1, 2021, for "implementing a trauma-informed approach" (KRS 158.4416(3)(c) and (5)).

### POLICY

Pursuant to KRS 158.4416, Southgate Independent School District has developed a plan for implementing a trauma-informed approach in its schools that includes strategies for:

- I. Enhancing trauma awareness throughout the school community;
- II. Conducting assessment of the school climate, including, but not limited to, inclusiveness and respect for diversity;
- III. Developing trauma-informed discipline policies;
- IV. Collaborating with the Kentucky State Police, the local sheriff and the local chief of police to create procedures for notification of trauma-exposed students; and
- V. Providing services and programs designed to reduce the negative impact of trauma, support critical learning, and foster a positive and safe school environment for every student.

I.	<b>Enhancing trauma awareness throughout the school community;</b>	a. District-wide trainings at the beginning of each school year on trauma-informed care approaches for faculty and staff; intensive training for all new staff as part of orientation
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		<p>b. Will identify a schedule to conduct trainings during ERD for staff (will be conducted at minimum by semester, but may be quarterly or monthly)</p> <p>c. Trainings for all staff will be updated regularly to address the changing needs of students, families and staff and will reflect updated research and evidence-based practices</p> <p>d. Resources will be made available to children, families and staff on trauma exposure, its impact and treatment</p>
II.	<b>Conducting an assessment of the school climate, including, but not limited to, inclusiveness and respect for diversity;</b>	<p>a. District will identify and utilize culturally responsive, evidence based, screenings and assessments that are reliable and valid by July 1, 2021</p> <p>b. School counselors and school-based mental health specialist will routinely screen for trauma exposure and related symptoms by October of 2021 and May of 2022</p> <p>c. District will conduct self-assessments to evaluate current policies and procedures to identify strengths and barriers, and revise as appropriate by January of 2022</p> <p>d. Self-assessments will be conducted every 3 years to ensure evolution of practices and research is updated</p>
III.	<b>Developing trauma-informed discipline policies;</b>	<p>a. Trauma- informed team will meet to review and revise discipline policies to ensure they mitigate the impact of trauma by February of 2022</p> <p>b. Each year policies will be reviewed for any necessary revisions</p> <p>c. Staff will be made aware of any revisions made to discipline policies and/or code of conduct</p>
IV.	<b>Collaborating with the Kentucky State Police, the local sheriff and the local chief of police to create procedures for notification of trauma-exposed students; and</b>	<p>a. District will collaborate with local law enforcement and the Kentucky State Police to implement <i>Handle with Care</i> notifications in each building by July 1, 2021</p> <p>b. Each building will designate three team members to check for these notifications first thing every morning. Members will be trained on specific measures to address student needs upon re-entry to school to prevent re-traumatization at the beginning of each school year.</p>
V.	<b>Providing services and programs designed to reduce the negative impact of trauma, support critical learning, and foster a positive and safe school environment for every student.</b>	<p>a. Southgate Independent School District shall join with Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services and other community organizations to support the development of a trauma informed community that promotes healthy environments for children, adults and their families by July 1, 2021.</p>

		<p>b. Each building in the district will adopt a classroom management approach to discipline that is trauma informed and will provide training to all faculty and staff by July 1, 2021.</p> <p>c. District will facilitate biannual parent summits educating about trauma exposure, its impact, and treatment; protective factors will be taught during these summits with the first summit occurring by August of 2022.</p>
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