



BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Division of Student Support Services
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To: All District-Wide Staff, Cabinet Members, Division Heads, Parents and Caregivers
From: Dr. Tonja M. Williams, Chief Superintendent of Student Support Services [TMW](#)
CC: Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: District-Wide Trauma Supports
Date: February 9, 2022

District-Wide Trauma Supports:

The BPS District has communicated with all school buildings in the district, as it is understood that students in schools, other than McKinley High School may have staff or students (siblings, cousins, friends, or other relatives) who have **been** directly affected by the crisis outside of McKinley High School on Wednesday February 9, 2022.

As such, the following steps and resources will be shared with schools to inform their practice and work with families, district-wide, to reinforce the fact that all of our Buffalo Public Schools are safe environments. Our goal is to help to increase student and adult comfort levels following this unfortunate event. The County Executive and Mayor of the City of Buffalo have committed to provide schools and the district with social-emotional supports for students, staff, and families.

District-wide practices in every BPS School will include:

- All administrative teams will be highly visible in schools, providing a welcoming presence greeting students and visiting classrooms throughout the school day.
- Ensure that space in each building is allocated to provide immediate crisis intervention.
- NYSED Certified, Licensed and trained teams of BPS Student Support Staff inclusive of: Counselors, Social Workers, and Psychologists will provide crisis counseling support to any student and staff member in the school, needing such service.
- Mental Health Community Partners in all BPS' schools will be on stand-by to provide individual and small group short-term mental health support to students.
- Restorative Circle Time in classrooms allowing students' time to voice their thoughts, fears, and concerns in a positive, safe and supportive environment.

BPS Resources Available To Parents and Caregivers:

- Visit www.buffaloschools.org -> Scroll across the top of the page to **"DEPARTMENTS"** → Go to the letter C and click on **"Crisis Prevention and Response"** → On the left hand side scroll to **"Parent Resources"** and click.

Parents and Caregivers will find information on: (1) signs to look for to know if your child is in distress; (2) Crisis Resource telephone numbers; and (3) contact information for local Mental Health Agencies.

The way in which adults express their emotions will influence the reactions of children and youth. Caregivers can help students manage their feelings by modeling healthy coping strategies and closely monitoring their own emotional state and that of those in their care.

"Putting children and families first to ensure high academic achievement for all."