

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

A Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Model



Neenah Joint School District

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Neenah Joint School District is a suburban K-12 district located in eastern Wisconsin. We have a comprehensive school-based mental health program, including partnerships with local community agencies to provide therapy to our students. We provide screening, a parent peer advocate, and school-based mental health to our K-5th grade students. We also provide depression and suicide screenings along with presentations, peer-led programming, and child abuse and sexual assault prevention programs in grades 6-12.

UNIVERSAL APPROACHES

We utilize Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), as well as screening via a Social, Academic, Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS), at the elementary level. At the secondary level, our district uses Signs of Suicide (SOS), presentations, and peer-led programming. Additionally, we implement community circles pre-K through 12.

REFERRAL PATHWAY

Screening has improved at all levels in the last 5-6 years using the SAEBSR at the elementary level & the BSAD in 6th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade.



SERVING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Our district started an Equity Committee this year and is doing professional development at every level. Our new partner for school-based mental health, Us2 Behavioral Health Care, is also minority-owned and operated and will bring diverse therapists and an emphasis on equity to their process of serving students and their families. Finally, we are hiring an Equity and Inclusion Coordinator to help with disproportionality.

OUTCOMES

On the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), our high school students’ rates of attempted suicide in the past 12 months decreased from 14.3% in 2015 to 5.4% in 2018 and 7.2% in 2019. (This rate was up to 15% two years prior and was above 10% for several years before that.) We attribute this to a reduction in stigma around mental health, reaching out to caregivers when results of screeners were positive for depression/suicidality, and the hiring of a mental health coordinator to bring more awareness & programming around mental health.

PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

Our Parent Peer Advocate sees around 30 elementary families a year, consults with numerous others, and provides presentations and groups for families. We have also put together videos and webinars to support families with students’ mental health.

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

District Staff, Teachers, and Administrators

Catalpa Health

NAMI FOX Valley

Samaritan Counseling

Reach Counseling

Us 2 Behavioral Health Care



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