

DCPS Trauma-Responsive Schools

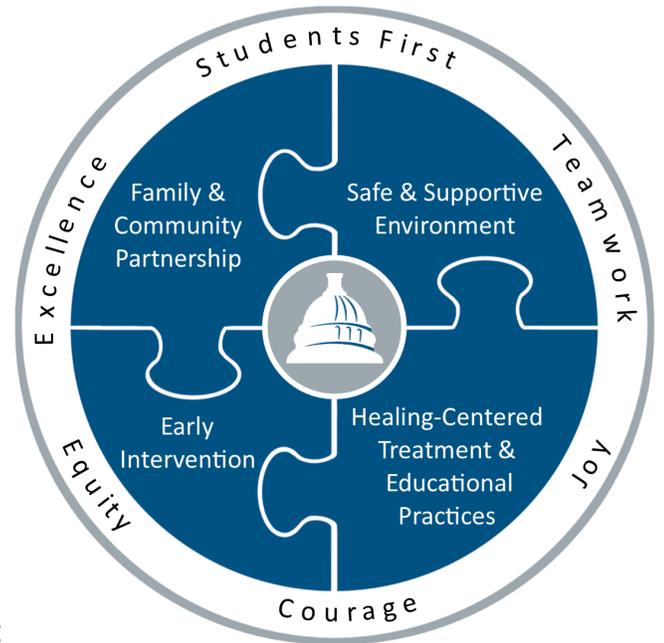
Vision

DC Public Schools are comprised of diverse and equitable school communities that are dedicated to academic excellence and the social emotional well-being of all students. Our organization fosters caring and healthy learning environments that are responsive to each student in collaboration with families and the community.

Mission

Our mission is for DCPS to become a trauma-responsive, healing-centered school district that creates learning environments within our schools that acknowledge and address the impact of trauma on student/school success by:

- Understanding trauma and its impact through the lens of cultural competence and research-based practices;
- Establishing safe and positive relationships between students, families, and staff that are restorative to survivors of trauma;
- Utilizing a collaborative approach between students, families, and staff that includes sharing decision-making across all levels of the school and positioning students and families as partners; and
- Ensuring emotional, physical, and identity safety for students and staff while working to meet basic needs and ensure interactions are consistent, predictable and respectful to prevent retraumatization.



The "Core Four" Components of the Trauma-Responsive Schools Model

FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Collaborate on identifying and eradicating the adverse effects of chronic stress and trauma on the education experience.

SAFE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Create an environment that is physically, emotionally, and psychologically safe for all members.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Assess and identify stressors that may potentially have educational impact.

HEALING-CENTERED TREATMENT & EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

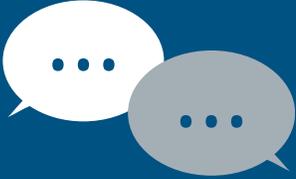
Make adequate supports available and easily accessible to students, families, and staff.

DCPS Trauma-Responsive Schools

Non-Negotiable Healing-Centered Practices

In an effort to make the Trauma-Responsive Schools Model actionable for schools, five non-negotiable practices that align to the model were chosen for schools to target for the 2020-2021 school year. These practices are seen as essential to the model and their implementation serves as a solid foundation for additional trauma-responsive practices in the future.

The Five Non-Negotiable Practices of the Trauma-Responsive Schools Model



Every student is greeted with positive and affirmative language daily and with each classroom transition.



Every teacher spends dedicated time with their classroom or homeroom students to build relational trust.



Every school provides opportunities and designated space to practice emotional regulation.



Every school should include opportunities for staff wellness.



Every school teaches, models, and reinforces school-wide behavior expectations for students and adults.