

Lakehead District School Board Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Implementation Action Plan

Annual Action Plan to address Board Strategic Priorities 2024/25

Lakehead District School Board’s Mental Health Strategic Vision: Lakehead Public Schools aligns its 3-year strategy with the requirements of the Ministry of Education’s Policy and Program Memorandum 169 which outlines the importance of building a continuum of mental health and addictions care across schools, community-based child and youth mental health providers and hospitals that is coordinated, comprehensive and responsive to the needs of every student. The Lakehead District School Board emphasizes the importance of helping children thrive, learn, and succeed by providing opportunities for them, and the adults around them, to develop the strengths and coping skills that underpin resilience. This 1-year action plan reflects our commitment to providing a tiered system of support, protecting and promoting student mental health with caring learning environments, focusing on Capacity Building and joint local planning.

Strategic Plan Priorities	Activities What will you do? Which Tier will it address?	Method How will you do it? Who will be involved? Who do you want to influence?
Provide a Tiered System of Support	Continue to expand on student prevention and promotion programming targeting tier 1, ensuring all students in all grades are provided with prevention and intervention mental wellness activities. Expand programming in secondary to include substance use prevention programming.	Continue to utilize partnerships with community and develop capacity on members of the boards mental health team to ensure all classrooms and students are able to take part in universal classroom prevention and promotion programming. Focus on Implementation of grades 7-8 Mental health Modules mandated by The Ministry of Education.

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	<p>Provide resources and coaching to educators on classroom management strategies pertaining to students experiencing challenges in mental wellness.</p> <p>Continue to offer interested schools and classrooms the opportunity for tier 2 programming in the form of classroom presentations, staff presentations and student group interventions.</p>	<p>Promote School Mental Health Ontario Resource including new “Wayfinder” 10-month plan.</p> <p>Continue to expand training of SNAP facilitators to include Elementary Primary Program Planners and elementary Social Work Team.</p> <p>Continue to work with CAMH YWHO to expand the implementation of the Preventure program into year 2, training more social workers and other identified co-facilitators.</p>
	<p>Provide tier 3 social work services for students in schools when necessary.</p> <p>Continue to work with Greenspace Mental Health introducing measurement-based care into clinical practice.</p>	<p>Continue to provide individual counselling in schools delivered by registered Social Workers. This includes identity affirming, brief treatment, and appropriate referrals to community mental health services.</p>

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<p>Protect and promote student mental health with caring learning environments</p>	<p>Create caring learning environments through wellness promotion, skill-building, student mental health literacy, student agency/engagement and leadership.</p> <p>Continue promoting the school staff wellness champion initiative to ensure active promotion within schools to other staff</p>	<p>Create a culture of openness and understanding within the classroom to the different experiences of students. Create space for these conversations to take place. Consider sources of stress for staff and families and ensure an approach of kindness and compassion and strive to understand the distress students may be experiencing.</p> <p>Meet regularly with Wellness champions to share programming initiatives, new resources and hear success and challenges in their schools.</p>
<p>Focus on Capacity Building</p>	<p>Including educators, school staff, board staff and mental health team</p>	<p>Enhance confidence and competence in the areas of crisis intervention and how to support students. Continue to expand implementation of the CSSRS to guidance departments.</p> <p>Continue allowing staff to participate in Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion Training.</p> <p>Moving forward specifically for this year implementing the grades 7, 8 & 10 Mental health modules and new School Mental Health Ontario Wayfinder Tool.</p> <p>Social workers continue to provide the opportunity for schools to pick brief training and education opportunities for PA days or staff meetings.</p>

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	Concentrate on identity affirming mental wellness promotion and education for students	Continue to focus on creating awareness in the areas of identity affirming mental health, cultural humility and the intersectionality's that different individuals experience that can impact wellness.
Joint Local Planning	Continue to work with Lead Childrens Mental health Agency on joint local planning initiatives	Using implementation science, guided through SMHO, continue to work with community agencies including children's mental health, hospital and other relevant systems to develop pathways to right time right care.