



A bridge between first responders and schools to provide passive awareness and trauma informed care to impacted students.



Proudly supported in northwest Washington by the NWESD 189 School Safety & Wellness Center
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How it Works



When a minor is exposed to a traumatic event in the community, responding law enforcement personnel will collect the name(s) and date(s) of birth of any school-aged children. These will be entered into their standard reporting system.



Handle With Care reports will be sent DAILY from the reporting agencies to the School Safety and Wellness Center (SSWC). Reports will include the names and DOBs of any impacted youth. No details of the event will be shared with the SSWC to protect confidentiality.



Before 9:00am on Monday through Friday, the SSWC will triage all HWC reports and send email notifications to the school districts where the reported youth are enrolled. Reports will be sent year-round.

Confirm & Forward



Designated notification recipients will confirm the student's enrollment, and forward the name and DOB to all appropriate staff who support the impacted student(s) throughout the day. Include teachers, counselors, coaches, student support personnel.

Passive Awareness & Active Care



School staff who receive a HWC notification will have passive awareness that the student may show signs of traumatic impact. Staff should provide additional care for the student if required. No details of the event are shared, and staff should refrain from asking the student about what happened unless the student initiates an opportunity for sensitive care and connection.



Students who show prolonged signs of distress may benefit from a referral to a mental health provider or other healthcare provider. Staff should follow their school's common protocol for referring a student to additional support.

Common Signs of Trauma Impact at School



- Excessive drowsiness
- Unusual mood swings, irritability, or agitation
- Tearfulness or avoidance of preferred activities
- Decreased engagement or eye contact
- Declining school performance
- Increased trips to the health room or counseling office
- Exercise discretion when addressing poor behavior

Remember that all students are different and not all will need extra help. Being aware of the signs of trauma is the first step in being prepared to help them if or when they need it.