

FVSD Student Support Services

What do the Student Support Services teams do?

Student Support Services are provided to students and families of the Fort Vermilion School Division. Services provided by the Mental Health Therapists, Student Wellness Coaches and Child's Circle workers all focus on the goal of helping students be safe and ready to learn when they enter the classroom. In order to do this, the Student Support Services staff work with children, youth and families to address risk factors and eliminate barriers to children and youth experiencing success in school and in life. Services provided may include confidential individual, group or family counselling for students and their parents/guardians, referrals to outside agencies to access therapeutic services, family support and education, support during a family crisis, program facilitation for promoting healthy living and healthy life choices, programs that promote positive skill building for children, youth and families as well as education for school staff about mental wellness, how to promote positive mental health for self and students as well as how to address mental health issues or other risk factors in their roles in the school and classroom.

How can I make a referral?

Referrals can be made by a parent/guardian, student, teacher or community agency. The Student Support Services Referral Form is used as the initial screening tool for all students and families at risk and in need of services from FVSD Student Support Services. Parents/guardians need to be made aware of the referral by the initial referral source.

Upon receiving a referral, the local team of Mental Health Therapist, Student Wellness Coach(es) and Child's Circle worker will meet to determine the next course of action. Depending on the individual situation, one or more Student Support Services may be involved with the student and/or family. The Mental Health Therapist or Student Wellness Coach will contact the parent/guardian to discuss the referral and obtain consent for services if it is determined that mental health supports are needed. The Child's Circle worker will contact the parent or guardian to discuss the referral, obtain consent and develop a Service Plan if it is determined that Child's Circle services are required.

After consent is obtained in the case of a student requiring mental health supports, the Mental Health Therapist and Student Wellness Coach will complete an initial assessment of the student's needs based on their social, occupational, and psychological functioning. Students with the highest level of need will be seen first.

Students may be involved in individual therapy, targeted group sessions and/or universal class programming with any or all of the Student Support Services staff as determined by their needs. Parents/guardians may also be involved in individual, targeted group and/or universal group programming, depending on their needs and individual situations.

Who should be referred?

The following is a guideline of issues that could be referred to the Student Support Services team. Referrals will be triaged and allocated to the appropriate team member, depending on what level of service is required.

- Family challenges
- Anger management
- Bullying
- Social Skills development
- Self Esteem
- Difficulties with peers or family relationships
- Peer pressure
- Problem solving
- Suicidality
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Diagnosis of a Mental Disorder
- Trauma
- Sexual Abuse
- Grief and Loss
- Self-Harm

What can I expect from the Mental Health Therapist, Student Wellness Coach and Child's Circle Worker?

Information obtained in individual and targeted group work is protected by strict rules of confidentiality. The Mental Health Therapist, Student Wellness Coach and Child's Circle worker will provide information to the school administration and teachers on an as-needed basis. Consultation will be provided to assist school personnel for school programming purposes.