

Things to Consider with Mental Health Services at School

Mental health providers, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the school district, may provide on-site mental health services to students.

*The mental health provider is **NOT** an employee of the school district.* An MOU for mental health services is approved by the school board, annually, and is required for an outside agency to have access to students on school grounds.

No **medical** health providers will be allowed to provide regular, ongoing medical services to your child within the school district.

Questions to ask or consider prior to beginning mental health services:

1. Who is my contact person at the school?
2. Will qualified mental health providers be provided?
3. What is the timeline for my child to receive services?
4. How does my child go to and return from mental health services without other students, staff members, or individuals knowing what my child is doing?
5. How do I communicate absences to mental health providers?
6. Am I allowed input on what is and is not discussed with my child?
7. Am I able to participate (sit in) with my child when my child receives mental health services?
8. Will the mental health provider discuss controversial topics (i.e., suicide, self-harm, bullying, physical/sexual/emotional abuse, social or political agendas, gender related issues, etc.)?
9. Who all knows my child is receiving mental health services?
10. Does the district staff know why my child is receiving mental health services?
11. Where will mental health services be received?
12. What type of mental health services are provided?
13. Will mental health services take priority over my child participating in a school function or activity?
14. If my child misses mental health services, can my child make up the session?
15. Can I, as a parent, decline mental health services **at any time** without risk of retaliation from the school, my child's teacher, or the mental health provider?
16. How does my child make up for missed instructional time and class work while receiving mental health services during school hours?
17. Am I required to complete a Release of Information form?
18. Will the school district receive information regarding the mental health services my child is receiving?

19. Will anyone from the school district be communicating with my child's mental health provider about my child?
20. If I have concerns regarding my child's mental health provider and/or the mental health services being received, who do I talk to about my concerns?