



**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH
MAY 2024**

WHEREAS, In 1949, May was established as Mental Health Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month is an opportunity to fight stigma and raise awareness about the vital role mental health plays in overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Millions of Americans, including children and adolescents, courageously live with mental health challenges and mental health disabilities in the face of profound cultural stigma and barriers to support; and

WHEREAS, The state of youth mental health in the United States has declined so significantly in recent years that the United States Surgeon General issued an urgent call to action in a Youth Mental Health Advisory published in December 2021, detailing data, concerns, and preventive strategies; and

WHEREAS, In its 2023 annual report, The Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health noted that one-third of Wisconsin youth report feeling sad or hopeless; 16% have experienced a major depressive episode between ages 12 and 17; nearly one in ten teens have attempted suicide, while 18% seriously considered suicide; and nearly half of Wisconsin's LGBTQ youth have seriously considered suicide; and

WHEREAS, There remains a significant shortage of mental health providers in Wisconsin, which creates barriers to both adults and children accessing timely and adequate therapies and supports. Nearly half of Wisconsin youth with diagnosed mental health challenges such as depression or anxiety receive no treatment; and

WHEREAS, Schools that implement comprehensive mental health systems see improved attendance and academic performance, fewer special education placements, decreased disciplinary actions, and higher graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, Communities and schools share in the responsibility to create safe spaces for students and staff, to strengthen mental health resources, and to develop and implement an integrated plan to support the mental health of community members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Glendale-River Hills School District proudly recognizes the month of May as **Mental Health Awareness Month**, in recognition and support of any student or staff member living with mental health challenges or mental health disabilities; and