Middleton School District partners with Care Solace for Mental Health Care Coordination Services

Partnership provides an added layer of support to connect students, staff, and families to mental health and substance use treatment providers

The Middleton School District will work with Care Solace, an organization designed to confidentially connect students, staff and families to verified local mental health care providers.

Care Solace also equips school systems with a customized online tool that provides a way to anonymously search for community-based providers matched to their needs. It is designed to calm the chaos of mental health care.

"Mental health is a serious health concern, especially since COVID, and takes considerable time when school counselors make referrals. Based on what we understand, this tool cuts that time down considerably," Superintendent Marc Gee said. "We know that students with positive mental health can build relationships more effectively, make decisions, and work together. These positive effects support the student and their larger community as they enter adulthood."

This assistance in the referral process is available at no cost to MSD staff, students, and their families and will connect families with mental health services that are appropriate for the financial abilities of each family. The program will cost the Middleton School District $4 annually per enrolled student or about $17,000 for the current enrollment. School Board trustees recently approved the expenditure out of ESSER funds and is available for use now.

It was noted during the March board meeting that school counselors can spend an average of 66 minutes trying to help a family find the right mental health services for one student and can ultimately reduce the wait time before someone can see a provider.

The confidential online platform that helps people navigate the mental health care system, locate area

providers and determine appointment availability. It also helps families with or without insurance, or those on Medicaid, and is available 24/7/365 in any language.

Care Solace's care navigation system relies on a vast database of behavioral and mental health care resources to find carefully verified therapists and programs in minutes.

"The effects of loss, isolation, uncertainty, and fatigue brought on by the pandemic continue to pose new challenges for students, staff, and their families," said Chad Castruita, Founder and CEO of Care Solace. "We are proud to support Middleton School District in prioritizing the well-being of its school community by providing timely access into mental health care and substance use treatment services."

Twin Falls is among some of the Idaho school districts using the program.

For more information about Care Solace please visit Care Solace for Middleton or reach out to your school's counselor.