



**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF  
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH  
MAY 2025**

The Board of Education of the Glendale-River Hills School District sets forth the following statement and resolution in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month 2025:

1. Mental Health Awareness Month, observed in May since 1949, is an opportunity to fight stigma and raise awareness about the vital role mental health plays in overall health and well-being.
2. Millions of Americans, including children and adolescents, courageously live with mental health challenges and mental health disabilities in the face of profound cultural and institutional stigma and barriers to support.
3. 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.
4. In its 2024 annual report, the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) noted that, over the past decade, many important indicators of the state of youth mental health in Wisconsin have moved in the wrong direction. OCMH reports that rates of anxiety, depression, sadness, hopelessness, suicidal ideation, and self harm have all risen significantly. More than a third of Wisconsin teens now report feeling sad and hopeless; more than one in five have engaged in self-harm; and nearly one in five have seriously considered suicide.
5. Mental health challenges do not impact all children equally. For instance, nearly half of Wisconsin's LGBTQ youth and 30 percent of teens experiencing food insecurity report having seriously considered suicide, compared with 18.6% overall. Responding effectively to mental health needs requires that we be aware of a student's lived experiences.

6. Recent research suggests a statistical correlation between increased time spent on digital technology and increased mental health challenges such as anxiety and depression. At the same time, screen usage continues to skyrocket among youth. Only about a quarter of Wisconsin's teens get enough sleep, and 53% report being on screens after midnight.
7. 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. Half of Wisconsin's youth with diagnosed mental health challenges such as depression or anxiety receive no treatment.
8. 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.
9. Schools that implement comprehensive mental health systems see improved attendance and academic performance, fewer special education placements, decreased disciplinary actions, and higher graduation rates.
10. We are proud of our district for improving the mental health supports and services that are being offered to our students. At the same time, we recognize and acknowledge that much more work remains to be done.
11. The level of mental health support our district is able to offer students is constrained by the revenue-limited state funding model for public schools, as well as inadequate reimbursement rates for mental health and special education services. Threats to federal funding for public schools also raise significant concerns about how we will continue to empower the growth, connection, and success of each student we serve.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Glendale-River Hills School District, as follows:

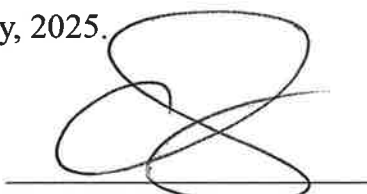
- A. We proudly recognize the month of May as **Mental Health Awareness Month**, in recognition and support of all students and staff members living with mental health challenges or mental health disabilities.
- B. We reject the stigma that tells us any human being is less than enough because of mental health challenges or mental health disabilities, or that seeking help and support for those challenges is weakness.

- C. We acknowledge the inherent value of each person in our community, regardless of diagnoses, labels, and challenges, and we recognize that each person in our community is worthy of acceptance, support, connection, and opportunity.
- D. We declare our commitment to building systems and resources that will enable our students and staff to be resilient and empowered, to adapt successfully to academic and social challenges, to build healthy social connections and relationships, to participate and be heard, and to thrive.
- E. We commit to continued advocacy in support of adequate funding for our public schools both generally and through improved reimbursement rates for mental health and special education services.

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.



Carla Pennington-Cross  
President



Danielle Bailey  
Vice President



Karn Cronwell  
Treasurer



Chris Robinson  
Clerk



Katie Avalos  
Assistant Clerk