Safe Schools

Operational Plan

2025-2026

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

At the time of this Operational Plan, the SD62 Safe Schools department consists of the following programs and staffing:

- Oversight of school counselling services and staffing for Elementary Schools.
- Support School counselling services for Middle and Secondary Schools.
- Collaborate with MCFD to support the coordination of services.
- Implement Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) and actions when a traumatic event impacts the school communities.
- Respond to concerning behaviour or potential threats through a Threat Risk Assessment Protocol.
- Support students who are disengaged from school or at high risk of disengaging from school, with the Student Advocate's role.
- Support for students who are harming self or others or who are at high risk of harming self or others with mentorship programs and connections with the Safe School Team.
- Promote and host educational opportunities for Trauma-Informed Practice, supported by the Mental Health Grant.
- Promote and host educational opportunities on Staff Wellness, supported by the Mental Health Grant

Staffing includes:

Safe School Principal, Safe School Coordinator, Safe School Program Assistant, Student Advocate (4), Child and Youth Mental Health Clinician, Elementary School Counsellors (12.2 FTE), Student Engagement Facilitator (33)

MANDATE

SD62's Safe Schools programs work in ways that promote Safe, Caring, and Restorative practice for schools and the community as a whole. We provide coordinated and integrated support for students who are (or are at risk of) school disengagement or harm to self or others.

We promote and practice responses to critical incidents with student and staff wellness in mind, recognizing that creating a safe and consistent environment is central to supporting individuals in their response to trauma.

Within the work that we do, we strive to promote trauma-informed practice and equitable access to services for our priority populations.

VISION

To create safe, inclusive, and supportive school communities where every student and staff member feels valued and cared for through proactive prevention, responsive intervention, and a strong commitment to well-being and safety.

INSERT DEPARTMENT PLAN 2025-2026 DELIVERABLES AND METRICS: LEARNING

STAFF WILL	INTENDED IMPACT	MEASURES	PROGRESS & EVIDENCE
GOAL: Strengthen relationships and coordinate collaborative actions related to Safe Schools within the school district and community to foster a culture of that leads to student-centered learning environments.			
Staff Will: • Further develop relationships with community partners to support students' capacity for social responsibility. • Continue to develop interdepartmental connections and relationships to support students in building social responsibility consistently and collaboratively system-wide. • Work interdepartmentally to support student engagement in meaningful educational programming within students' home school as students explore career paths, prepare for post-secondary education, or enter the workforce.	**Intended Impact:** • Collaboration with community agencies and South Island partnerships to address current safety issues and mental health concerns • System-wide interdepartmental approaches to supporting students in building social responsibility and preparing students for post-secondary education or entry into the workforce • Connecting students to their home schools and moving on to post-secondary education or entry into the workforce	**The Department will show progress by:** • Informing Safe School practices to reflect the initiatives developed with the South Island Safety Committee partnership • Increasing interdepartmental approaches to supporting students, including the development of a Mental Health Plan • Students on the Student Advocate caseload reengaging with their home school	**The Department has demonstrated progress by:**

INSERT DEPARTMENT PLAN 2025-2026 DELIVERABLES AND METRICS: ENGAGEMENT

STAFF WILL	INTENDED IMPACT	MEASURES	PROGRESS & EVIDENCE
GOAL: Prioritize student well-being and student-centered services through ensuring consistent, responsive services for students and their families.			
Staff Will: • Collect and regularly review data on the demographics of students on the safe school caseload. • Explore and support system-wide strategies to increase student attendance by working collaboratively with SD62 departments and schools. • Work with community partners to maintain and grow mentorship programs and community engagement opportunities • Support schools' collaboration with Safe Schools Staff to support vertical services for students and their families.	**Intended Impact:** • Increased agility and consistency in responsive approaches addressing immediate concerns for students and families using a vertical system approach • Collection of student population demographic data to be used to inform preventative measures and identify underserved populations. • Increase student attendance and meaningful participation in learning • More opportunities for students to participate in mentorship programs and community engagement partnerships.	**The Organization will show progress by:** • Creating a system-wide strategic approach to increasing student attendance. • Increasing opportunities for students to participate in mentorship and community partnership engagement opportunities • Increasing closed Safe School cases and open cases where minimal support is required, indicating students are meaningfully engaged in learning or graduating • Increasing collaborative vertical services for families	**The Organization has demonstrated progress by:**
GOAL: Organize the Safe School Department to ensure that priority populations have access to services, specifically Child and Youth in Care (CYIC), in response to the Discontinuation of the SBSW			
Staff Will: • Maintain an ongoing relationship with MFCD, Child Protection to identify service gaps with the discontinuation of the SBSW position • Work collaboratively with MCFD, Child and Youth Mental Health, to collect data on the Impact of the CYMH clinician's role • Maintain a consistent practice for tracking CYIC services and supports, and ensure continuity of support with the MCFD shift away from SBSW	**Intended Impact:** • Maintenance of the connection between MCFD family supports and SD62 Staff. • Awareness of CYIC within our system and the support required for student success.	**The Organization will show progress by:** • Development of a consistent practice for tracking CYIC services and supports. • Increase staffing allocated to supporting CYIC, targeting elementary school-age Children	**The Organization has demonstrated progress by:**

INSERT DEPARTMENT PLAN 2025-2026 DELIVERABLES AND METRICS: GROWTH

STAFF WILL	INTENDED IMPACT	MEASURES	PROGRESS & EVIDENCE
GOAL: Promote Safe School processes and provide district-wide training to develop consistency of Practice.			
Staff Will: • Support the School staff in using Risk Threat Assessment evidence-based strategies when responding to threatening behaviour. • Support school staff in using Critical Incident Response evidence-based strategies when responding to traumatic events. • Develop training opportunities to maintain district-wide approaches aligned to evidence-based practices for Critical Incident Response, Threat Assessment, and Trauma-Informed Practice.	**Intended Impact:** • Enhance district-wide capacity by increasing staff confidence and knowledge to ensure consistent, effective responses to Risk-Threat Assessments • Enhance district-wide capacity by increasing staff confidence and knowledge to ensure consistent, effective responses to traumatic events • Provide Consistent district-level support in responding to threat assessments and Traumatic events	**The Organization will show progress by:** • Regular use and documentation of the SD62 internal threat assessment process. • Providing a critical incident response training event for all principals. • Hosting training events for school-level staff on evidence-based practices for Critical Incident Response, Threat Assessment, and Trauma-Informed Practice.	**The Organization has demonstrated progress by:** •