

# Safer Kids, Safer Schools Recommended Strategies

## Recommended School Based Strategies

Objective	Strategy
<b>Create a caring and connected school community</b>	Enhance the skills children and youth need to be self-aware and caring of others (e.g., empathy, social emotional learning, antibullying).
	Ensure all students have a positive connection with a supportive adult within the school.
	Monitor school climate and improve, where needed.
	Promote connection and involvement with all families across all schools.
	Create opportunities for students to care for and support each other.
	Create opportunities for teachers to better understand student's emotional and connection experiences.
<b>Expand student engagement opportunities</b>	Make participation in student clubs and sports even more viable and desirable for all students.
	Leverage community volunteers to support student engagement.
	Promote youth leadership and leadership opportunities within each school and across the district.
	Support teachers in their efforts to create more engaging classroom environments.
<b>Expand mental health supports and programs within schools.</b>	Monitor use of expanded TCAPs MH supports and reallocate and expand resources, if appropriate. Track the impact of these expanded MH supports.
	Ensure equity (need based) in the availability of MH supports across TCAPS schools.
	Continue to expand partnerships with local agencies.
	Explore the use of the tools available through the National Center for School Mental Health to further enhance the quality of school-based mental health supports and programs.
<b>Enhance mental health screening and crisis intervention efforts</b>	Universally screen students to identify those who are at risk, experiencing MH challenges and trauma, and feeling isolated.
	Assess the efficacy of current and planned crisis identification, intervention, and follow-up supports within schools.
	Explore the potential value of adopting school-based crisis intervention techniques such as the Off-Ramp R Model proposed by The Violence Project.

See the SKSS Full Presentation for more details and examples for the school & community strategies.

## SKSS Recommended Community Based Strategies

Objective	Strategy
<b>Create a movement to develop a caring and connected community</b>	Sponsor a campaign that shows how much the Grand Traverse Region cares for children. Include ways adults can further support children and youth.
	Expand mentoring opportunities across the community. Ensure every child has a positive relationship with an adult.
	Create a sponsorship group - “Friends of TC Kids” – to raise funds to support youth engagement and positive youth development activities.
	Tackle loneliness by building intentional community connections.
<b>Promote community awareness of risk and appropriate responses</b>	Have clear protocols and processes for reporting concerns.
	Launch a media campaign to educate the community about what to look for and how to report it.
	Ensure relevant community stakeholders know MI state police protocols.
	Create more “early identification” and referral opportunities across the community and embed them in cross-sector organizations.
<b>Reduce and respond to trauma</b>	Reduce economic hardships by lifting families out of poverty.
	Create a Trauma-Informed Community by integrating trauma-informed policies, practices, and procedures across all sectors.
	Reduce child abuse.
	Promote safety at home, neighborhoods and communities.
<b>Engage and empower youth</b>	Provide diverse youth with opportunities to develop their leadership skills and to take on leadership roles within the community.
	Provide opportunities for children/youth to voice their ideas and perspectives. Incorporate this perspective into community solutions and designs.
	Expand opportunities and spaces for youth to have recreation and meaningful community engagement experiences.
	Launch a community campaign that promotes youth engagement.
<b>Expand availability of community resources and supports</b>	Recruit more mental health professionals in the region.
	Expand community support for teaching social emotional competencies in schools.
	Expand community awareness of available programs, supports and resources.
<b>Enhance early intervention efforts</b>	Provide expectant and new parents with support and mentoring opportunities
	Expand early intervention programs and supports across the community.