



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent KG
Division of Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: Guidance and Considerations for 31n/C4S Mental Health Providers

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced Executive Order 2020-5 directing the closure of all elementary and secondary school buildings in the state to students for educational purposes beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Sunday, April 5, 2020. Two state programs, 31n and C4S, provide resources to support mental health services to students. The Department is encouraging providers to remain available to address the mental health needs of students during school closures.

The extended school closure can be a very stressful time for our students, especially those with anxiety and depression. School-based mental health providers are an invaluable resource to our students during this time. Rather than stepping back, we must continue to step up and find creative and appropriate ways to continue to provide the critical mental health services to students, while being mindful of the significant pressure on the medical community at this time. We are asking Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), local school districts, and contracted third-party providers continue to work closely together to address the mental health needs of those in your local school communities.

Please consider the following ideas as you develop your response. This is not an exhaustive list, rather some ideas to spark your creative thinking. In all situations, please remain mindful of confidentiality and personal preferences while developing your coordinated response.

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- View available guidance and resources here: <https://adaa.org/finding-help/coronavirus-anxiety-helpful-resources>
- Consult with and follow the guidance of your administrative team regarding availability and location of mental health service provisions during this time of school closure.
- Where possible, make plans with current clients for the best way to continue to meet their mental health needs during the school closure.
- In consultation with your administrative team, determine your availability for mental health crisis calls and check-ins. Together, determine how information about crisis services will be communicated clearly, consistently, and often.
- Promote the use of 2-1-1 for connection to local mental health resources or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Use school phone lines or set up a local hotline number for those in crisis to use. Purchase dedicated school-owned cell phones that can be used for student check-ins. This is considered an allowable expense with 31n(6) funds.
- Create a special email address or social media option where students can reach a caring and trusted adult who will respond during this time. This is considered an allowable expense with 31n(6) funds.
- Consider using school websites to host helpful mental health information and resources for students and their families.
- Consider having teachers reach out to families and students in their classes to reassure them of services available. Teachers then can bring concerns to the 31n/C4S providers for follow up.
- Remember to use already established automated phone or text message systems where possible. Many families may already have chosen their communication method of preference.
- Tele-health sessions are a permissible option.

As the situation evolves, additional guidance may be forthcoming. We appreciate your efforts to support students during this difficult time. Please continue to stay connected to your partners at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). We want to help you determine the best way possible to meet the mental health needs of your students. Please contact any of the following for additional information:

Scott Hutchins, MDE (HutchinsS1@michigan.gov) or 517-241-7099
Chris Robinson, MDHHS (RobinsonC15@michigan.gov) or 517-335-9230
Lauren Kazee, MDHHS (Kazeel@michigan.gov) or 248-765-6610
Diane Golzynski, MDE (GolzynskiD@michigan.gov) or 517-241-5362

MDE has divided ISDs among our consultants in an effort to assist everyone with a direct contact. That list is below. You are encouraged to call anyone on the list to help address your questions.

I appreciate your continued work to support the mental health needs of your students.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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Charlevoix-Emmet ISD

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Clare-Gladwin RESD

Traverse Bay Area ISD

Hillsdale ISD

Iosco RESA

Jackson ISD

Kalamazoo RESA

West Shore ESD

Mecosta-Osceola ISD

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Ionia County ISD

Kent ISD

Lapeer ISD

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Copper Country ISD

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Macomb ISD
Manistee ISD

Marquette-Alger RESA
Menominee ISD

Monroe County ISD

St Joseph ISD
Washtenaw ISD
Wexford-Missaukee ISD

***Current Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas**