

NNDSB Mental Health Annual Action Plan 2026 - 2027

The Near North District School Board (NNDSB) recognizes that mental health and well-being are fundamental to student success and impact academic achievement and social and emotional development. Our [2022 – 2025 Mental Health and Addiction Strategy](#) outlines our commitment to creating a culture of caring, where students thrive in mentally healthy classrooms that focus on supporting the well-being of students and developing their sense of belonging in their school community.

The 2026 – 2027 Annual Action Plan outlines our framework for the upcoming school year and is aligned with [Policy/Program Memorandum 169: Student Mental Health](#).

Priorities for a Mentally Healthy School Year

Service Pathways and Meaningful Collaboration. Best outcomes for students and families are ensured through collaboration with community partners to develop clear processes for accessing mental health services within the school board and in the broader community.

Professional Learning and Training. Prepare staff for supporting student mental health and well-being with appropriate training for their role.

Communication. Clear and timely communication with students, families, staff, and system partners to ensure cohesive and effective connections and pathways.

Tiered Model of Mental Health Programming that is evidence and culturally informed. The tiered model allows for effective design and monitoring of mental health services at the system and school level. Evidence-based tools and approaches help ensure positive outcomes.



Key Actions	Audience	Timeline	Anticipated Outcomes and Indicators of Success	AIM Tier	Resources	PPM 169 Requirements
Priority 1: Service Pathways and Meaningful Collaboration						
Conduct comprehensive stakeholder and rightsholder consultations (including students, staff, families, and community partners) to inform the development of a data-informed, culturally responsive multi-year mental health and well-being strategic plan.	School and board staff. Students. Parents and Caregivers. Community partners.	September 2026 – June 2027	A multi-year mental health and well-being strategic plan that reflects the needs, strengths, and priorities of the school community, and supports continuous improvement of a tiered system of mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention.	1		#1 Three-Year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and One-Year Action Plan
Phased, multi-year implementation of revised suicide prevention, intervention, postvention, and life promotion protocols across all schools,	All staff.	June 2027	All schools follow a clear, standardized protocol for prevention, crisis response, and postvention. Students receive timely, appropriate support when	All	Collaboration with community partners (Hands, hospital, Mental Health and Addiction Nurses).	#5 Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention Protocols.

beginning this year with targeted staff training and progressive system-wide capacity building.			experiencing mental health crises. School staff feel more confident and capable of recognizing and responding to students at risk.		SMHO resources.	
Priority 2: Professional Learning and Training						
Professional learning will align with system priorities to build staff capacity to support Tier 1 mental health promotion, including support for implementation of mental health protocols where appropriate.	All staff	Ongoing (2026 – 2027)	Increased awareness and use of Leading Mentally Healthy Schools resources among school administrators, with emerging staff capacity to support Tier 1 mental health promotion.	1	SMH-ON resources	#3 Multi-Tiered System of Support #7 Enhanced educator and staff mental health literacy #10 Social Emotional Learning

Priority 3: Communication.

Enhance and implement a clear, accessible communication plan to inform families about mental health and well-being resources available for children and youth.	Parents, caregivers, and families.	Ongoing	Resources made available on NNDSB mental health website and promoted on social media and in newsletters. Monthly Student Wellbeing newsletter. Letter to Families updates.	1	Interdepartmental collaboration (IT, Communications, Equity and Student Well-being, Library).	#9: Family mental health literacy and awareness
Enhance communication with schools regarding mental health and well-being resources and supports for children and youth.	Administrators Educators	Ongoing	Mental health and well-being information is shared with schools through coordinated and timely communication processes.	1		#7 Enhanced educator and student mental health literacy.

Priority 4: Tiered model of mental health programming that is evidence and culturally informed.

Support the implementation of evidence-based classroom programs and resources that promote mental health literacy for all students.	Educators, mental health staff, administrators, elementary students, families.	September 2026 to June 2027	Increased number of classrooms at each school receiving mental health literacy programming. Student and staff surveys indicate satisfaction with the program and perceived impact.	1	Experience and Outcomes Surveys for students and staff.	#3 Multi-tiered System of Support. #7 Enhanced educator and student mental health literacy. #10 Social Emotional Learning.
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Expand on the PreVenture pilot by broadening implementation to support mental health and reduce substance use risk among Grade 7/8 students.	Mental health staff, administrators, teachers, and grade 7/8 students.	September to December 2026	Completion of modules with grade 7/8 students at select pilot expansion schools.	1	Student manuals. Training with YWHO and SMHO.	#3 Multi-tiered System of Support. #4 Consistent use of evidence - informed brief interventions and standardized measurement. #7 Enhanced educator and student mental health literacy.
Expand Educator Well-being Champions Project.	K – 12 Educators Mental Health Staff	September 2025	Increased mental health promotion in all schools. Increased educator awareness of mental health supports and resources.	1	Pre- and post-surveys. Supply educators.	#3 Multi-tiered System of Support. #7 Enhanced educator and student mental health literacy.

Expand Student Well-being Champions Project.	Educators and relevant mental health staff. Student champions.	September 2025	Increased student-led mental health promotion in all secondary schools. Greater awareness of mental health supports and resources.	1	Pre- and post-surveys Materials to support student led projects.	#3 Multi-tiered System of Support. #7 Enhanced educator and student mental health literacy.
Support educators in delivering mandatory mental health literacy lessons to Grades 6, 7/8, and 10 students, including implementation of newly introduced Grade 6 modules.	Careers teachers, 6/7/8 teachers, department heads, principals.	Ongoing	100% implementation of mandatory mental health literacy modules.	1	SMH-ON implementation support materials VLE modules	#8 Mandatory Mental Health Literacy Learning for Students