



For Immediate Release

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Handle Students with Care

Mason, MI – In a partnership with the Ingham County Sheriff's office, Mid-Michigan Trauma Collaborative, several law enforcement agencies, mental health providers, community partners and public school districts within the Ingham Intermediate School District service area, a *Handle with Care* initiative has been launched to provide additional supports to students who experience trauma.

From a state and national perspective, law enforcement and first responders are trained to identify children at the scene, find out where they attend school and send a confidential email to *Handle Susie with Care*. That's it. No other details. They are first on the scene of crime, violence, fire, medical emergency and/or abuse and provide support to children at the scene who have been exposed to trauma. The *Handle with Care* initiative allows first responders to connect with the child's school so that district personnel are aware of the incident and able to respond to student needs.

School personnel have been trained on interventions and how to mitigate the negative impact to students who have been through traumatic experiences. Students may need additional help or time to adjust to their school environment, which may include more counseling, time to finish assignments, extra time to take exams, whatever the student needs to help them feel safe and cared for at an unstable time in their lives. The goal is to help school staff give students the additional supports they need to perform at their highest potential, given the circumstances.

"Ingham Intermediate School District is pleased to partner with law enforcement, first responders, community mental health and community partners to support students in our service area. *Handle with Care* will equip educators to better understand a student's behavior or needs when they have gone through a traumatic experience – to handle them with care," said Jason Mellema, Ingham ISD Superintendent.

For more information about the *Handle with Care* initiative visit www.handlewithcaremi.org.

Ingham Intermediate School District supports twelve local school districts and ten public school academies in its service area which reaches into seven counties in the mid-Michigan area. The local school districts include: Dansville, East Lansing, Haslett, Holt, Lansing, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Waverly, Webberville and Williamston. For more information about Ingham Intermediate School District programs or services, go to www.inghamisd.org.

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