

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK for STUDENT WELL-BEING

What is the Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being?

The Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being connects front-line educators with evidence-based practices that improve student well-being. It is one of four knowledge networks that are part of the [Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research \(KNAER\)](#). The Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being is a joint project of the [Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#) and the [Offord Centre for Child Studies](#), affiliated with McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences.

What is Student Well-Being?

Student well-being has many parts to it. It includes individual, community, and broader societal factors. It is more than just the absence of problems. Promoting well-being in education goes beyond the adoption of any particular practice or body of evidence. Well-being requires a broad, integrated view of wellness. Schools are excellent places to build the skills, attitudes, and habits that support well-being for all students.

Who are the partners in the Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being?

The [Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#) has nearly 50,000 students in more than 100 schools in urban, suburban and rural settings. Their research department supports decision-makers at the HWDSB, and has a history at being a leader in knowledge mobilization and implementation research.

The Offord Centre for Child Studies brings together researchers interested in all areas of child and youth mental health, early development, child maltreatment prevention, immigrant and refugee children's well-being, family-based early intervention, and more.

The Offord Centre for Child Studies is following up on its landmark [Ontario Child Health Study](#) of 1983, which identified that 1 in 5 Ontario children were experiencing mental health difficulties, with 2014 data from across the province, including comprehensive student mental health surveys.

Who else is involved in the Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being?

The Knowledge Network has also joined with four existing communities of practice who each bring special knowledge and skills to an aspect of well-being.

[School Mental Health ASSIST](#) is a provincial implementation support team designed to help Ontario school boards to promote student mental health and well-being. They are our community of practice for **Positive Mental Health** in schools.

The [Social Planning Network of Ontario](#) is a network of community planning councils who bring local knowledge about the impact of poverty on **Equity and Inclusive Education**.

[PREVNet](#) is a network of leading researchers and organizations helping students build safe relationships, and working together for **Safe and Accepting Schools**.

The [Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition](#) is an innovative coalition supporting **Healthy Schools** for the optimal health and learning of Ontario's children and youth.

These organizations reflect the four policy areas identified in [Ontario's Well-Being Strategy for Students](#). Together with the network leaders they will work together to connect front-line educators with leaders in the field, in order to enhance uptake of evidence-based practices. They will also work with front-line educators to identify promising practices, and to engage researchers in working with educators to evaluate these practices.

For more information about the Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being, contact Don Buchanan (dbuchana@hwdsb.on.ca) (905) 527-5092, ext. 2724

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