

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK for STUDENT WELL-BEING

What is the Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being?

The Knowledge Network for Student Well-Being is a project that connects front-line educators with evidence-based practices that improve student well-being. It is one of four planned 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](#) at McMaster University.

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 illness. 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, knowledge and habits that support well-being for all students.

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

The Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University brings together researchers who are interested in all areas of child well-being. The Offord Centre conducted the [Ontario Child Health Study](#) in 1983 that first identified that 1 in 5 Ontario children were experiencing mental health difficulties. Researchers at the Offord Centre are conducting the current follow-up to the Ontario Child Health Study, and have other research programs that examine physical health and well-being, family violence, developmental disorders, and a variety of other aspects of well-being.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has nearly 50,000 students in over 100 schools in urban, suburban and rural settings. The Evidence-Based Education and Services Team (E-BEST) is the research department supporting decision-makers at the HWDSB, and has a long history at being at the forefront of knowledge mobilization and implementation research within the Board.

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 expertise to an aspect of well-being. [School Mental Health ASSIST](#) is our community of practice for Positive Mental Health in schools. The [Social Planning Network of Ontario](#) brings expertise in Equity and Inclusive Education. [PREVNet](#) is a network of leading researchers and organizations, working together for Safe and Accepting Schools. The [Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition](#) is a dynamic and 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](#), which are *equity and inclusive education*, *healthy schools*, *positive mental health*, and *safe and accepting schools*. 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 to help educators in evaluating 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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