

January 7, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

North East ISD and the San Antonio Police Department are teaming up to launch the 'Handle With Care' pilot program starting in 2019.

The Handle With Care program promotes a school-community partnership aimed at ensuring that children who are exposed to trauma in their home or community receive appropriate interventions to help them heal and thrive to the best of their ability, despite the traumatic circumstances they experienced. The ultimate goal of the program is to help students to succeed in school.

As part of the pilot program, school staff will be notified when one of their students is involved in, or is witness to a traumatic event. When a law enforcement officer encounters a child during a call, a confidential message will be sent from law enforcement to the child's school before the start of the next school day, alerting staff to "handle the student with care." The notice from law enforcement will not include details of the incident; however, school staff will then know to be especially attentive to the child's needs and sensitive to his/her circumstances outside of school.

Examples of the types of incidents that may generate a Handle With Care notice include the arrest of household member, a drug/alcohol overdose of a family member, the death/suicide of a family member, an incident of domestic violence, or devastating loss, such as a house fire.

The pilot program will be in place in the following schools starting in 2019:

Roosevelt High School, Krueger Middle School, Ed White Middle School, Clear Spring Elementary School, Wilshire Elementary School, Camelot Elementary School, East Terrell Hills Elementary School, Montgomery Elementary School, Royal Ridge Elementary School, Walzem Elementary School, and Windcrest Elementary School.

The schools selected for this pilot program are part of a feeder system of schools, so in cases where there are multiple children in a family, each child's school will be notified.

Following this pilot year, an evaluation of the volume of calls will help determine what resources will be needed to possibly extend the program to other schools within NEISD.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school at (210) xxx-xxxx.

Sincerely,