

Bellevue Public Schools (BPS) and Project Harmony recently presented at the National Advancing School Mental Health Conference in Las Vegas on “Creating a Trauma-Informed School District.” This presentation explained how BPS has embarked on changing the culture of their school district through adopting a trauma-informed lens.

BPS described how their district-wide initiative has changed the culture of the school district and has been a process that requires the commitment of their staff and leaders. With the recognition that one in five students experiences trauma, BPS has prioritized training all staff members about the prevalence of and how to recognize trauma in order for them to adopt trauma-responsive approaches to best support those impacted students.

Bellevue Public Schools sees this initiative as going beyond simply implementing the model and monitoring a fidelity checklist. Director of Student Services Kevin Mills explains, “We’re striving for a profound paradigm shift in knowledge, perspective, attitudes, and skills that continues to deepen and unfold over time. Leaders in the field talk about a continuum of implementation, where organizations move through stages. It begins with becoming trauma-aware, our focus over the past year, and moves to trauma-sensitive and responsive, and then to being fully trauma informed.”

Trauma Matters Omaha is proud of BPS’s work and dedication to this initiative and looks forward to seeing them take the next action steps in this trauma-informed school district movement.



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