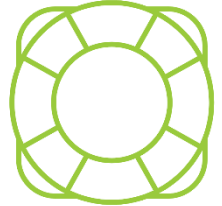


# Wisconsin's Trauma Sensitive Schools Guiding Principles

## Safety

Physical, emotional, and psychological safety are enhanced through caring relationships, predictable routines, opportunities for regulation, and positive school climates free from violence. Universal programming and a focus on social connectedness increase real and perceived safety between students, staff, and caregivers.



## Trustworthiness

Students, staff, and caregivers perceive the school system and individuals within it as honest, truthful, and reliable. Schools foster trustworthiness when individuals are treated with respect, appropriate boundaries are maintained, practices and procedures are clear and consistent, and cultural identities of groups and individuals are considered assets.

## Cultural Responsiveness

School leaders seek to understand the unique values, beliefs, and behaviors of the school community and apply that understanding to implement practices that adapt to the broad diversity of race, language, and culture. The school community recognizes the history of systemic oppression in education and works to prevent and redress these harms.



## Empowerment

School leaders provide space and opportunities for students, staff, and caregivers to recognize their own greatness by building resilience, providing opportunities to build mastery, and fostering a growth mindset. The school community uses person-first language and recognizes students, staff, and caregivers as strong and capable.

## Collaboration

Students, staff, and caregivers have authentic opportunities to collaborate and co-create programs, practices, policies, and procedures of the school and district. School staff listen to what families say about their children's interests and challenges and talk with students about how they want to be supported.



## Choice

Schools maximize student experiences of choice and control while maintaining high expectations and trust students and families as experts in their own situations. Staff engage students in problem-solving to promote power sharing and agency. Individual student planning is family-driven and youth-guided.

