



## Student Support Services

July 30, 2021

To: Certificated Staff

From: Pat Mahony, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services  
Jim Schofield, Director, Student Support Services  
Lindsey Ma, Director, Student Support Services  
Michele Yamarone, Director, Special Education  
PD Committee Members

RE: August 9, 2021 District Professional Development Day

In accordance with the ATA/District contract agreement, Monday, August 9, 2021 has been designated as a Professional Development Day (PD) **for all certificated staff**. August 9th will be the only day for District-wide PD whereas August 5-6 will be site based PD. The focus of the August 9th PD will be to provide an overview of trauma exposed students, creating positive, predictable, nurturing environments, and classroom restorative circle practices.

The importance of attending to mental health has become even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The reopening of schools presents a perfect time to focus on establishing a culture of support, connectivity, and the well-being of students, staff and parents. Feeling safe, both physically and emotionally, are necessary for successful academic outcomes. In addition, there must be a focus on developing social emotional foundations for our students as well as focusing on self-care and well-being for all. Our efforts to accelerate learning and achieve equitable outcomes for all students must include promoting activities that build and strengthen positive well-being.

### **The format for August 9th will be as follows:**

- Staff will spend the entire day at their home school. Satellite staff will be informed where to report. Specialized special education staff will remain at their home school the entire morning. Select staff in specialized programs (MDD elementary grades TK-3, SD, LIFT South, Moor Field, and Autism/Functional Academics) will receive tailored training during the afternoon of August 9th. Please be on the lookout for an email from the Special Education Department for further details. LIFT North and AHS MDD will participate in the training at AHS for the entire day.
- Staff will need their laptop and internet access for part of the PD day.
- Staff should sign in at the designated location at their school site. Staff will pick up an agenda and be assigned a room number for the beginning activity.
- The remainder of the day will be a hybrid approach, held via webinar/zoom along with in person small group activities.

**Please arrive at your assigned classroom no later than 8:00 for your in-person learning activity.** We will start the Professional Development Day promptly at 8:00 a.m. After the initial early morning activity, return to your classroom/office as we will start promptly at 8:55 a.m. Please click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/98507796808> to join the webinar. Make sure you have downloaded the most recent version of Zoom. We are looking forward to seeing you.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Student Support Services at 626-943-3410.