



To: Principals, Teachers

Topic: Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL)

Message Objective(s):

To assist principals and teachers to utilise the (CSTL) policy framework to improve learner welfare and conducive environment for learner psychosocial support.

Message:

Utilize the (CSTL) policy framework to build psychosocial support models for their schools.

The PSS model for schools aims at the mobilisation of all available capacity to develop and roll out a model of support that addresses psychosocial barriers to learning. The model describes a national system to screen, identify and refer learners requiring psychosocial support. The aim of this model is to describe the learner welfare and psychosocial support model for schools and to provide guidance in implementing it so that DBE initiatives on learner well-being within the existing DBE policy framework for Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) are strengthened.

PSS advocacy training will help school principals, educators, parents and support personnel to be better prepared for their role in providing psychosocial support to the learners, many of whom face a myriad of psychosocial barriers to learning. The PSS model suggested by the CSTL policy framework aim to focus attention on addressing psychosocial barriers to learning.

DBE's Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) policy framework is all about creating an enabling school environment in which teachers and learners can become better equipped to confront the serious challenges facing schools. These include high learner drop-out rates, teenage pregnancy and violence at school. The CSTL framework provides a useful basis for understanding the various influences and risks learners are exposed to, and for working to combat the factors that impact negatively on learners' well-being.

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References: (Psychosocial Support: A Model for South African Schools (2021), CSTL Framework document)