



To: Principals

Topic: **How to develop a PSS Model at your school.**

Message Objective(s): To build capacity of principals to build a PSS model for their schools.

Message: How do we build a standardised PSS Model for all the schools? All schools must complete six (6) key stages described below:

- 1) **Advocacy:** The SMT must conduct advocacy sessions with all stakeholders of the school and the wider community about the importance of psycho-social support and learner well-being available at the school or externally.
- 2) **School Self- Assessment:** Schools must conduct a process of self -assessment to critically assess the needs, common issues, and interests of the school to generate a school-wide map of their needs and available resources. The resources are both internal and external. It is critical that schools look for external resources from government departments and non -governmental organisations within their reach to augment whatever internal resources they might have.
- 3) **School Planning:** Schools must develop a school -wide PSS plan with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the school, the learners, parents, and community resources in the implementation of PSS. It is important at this stage to share PSS information to all stakeholders.
- 4) **Partnerships and linkages:** Develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with NGOs and government departments to provide group and individualised PSS services.
- 5) **PSS Implementation:** Implement agreed PSS plan which could be focussed on the school-wide plan, group, or individual services or all three together simultaneously.
- 6) **Monitoring, Evaluation(M&E) and Adjustment:** It is critical for the schools and DBE offices to continuously monitor and evaluate progress and against the PSS plan and adjust where necessary to improve the programme and delivery.

Using these key stages as primary indicators will enhance the systematic replication of PSS in different settings and contexts, while at the same time allowing sufficient flexibility for schools to develop their own preferred approaches to PSS.

From: George Taodzera (Georget@nect.org.za) 079 368 0612

References: Basic Psychosocial Skills: A COVID-19 Responder's Guide, Psychosocial Support: A model for South African Schools.