

Trauma-Skilled Schools Institute

Professional Development Offered by the National Dropout Prevention Center

The Trauma-Skilled Schools Institute is a two-day professional development event that provides in-depth training in the National Dropout Prevention Center's (NDPC) Trauma-Skilled Schools Model. The Trauma-Skilled Schools Model focuses on the implications of adverse childhood experiences on school behavior and learning, the development of essential resiliency skills in the classroom and in other school experiences, and on acquisition of educator skills that enable trauma-impacted students to succeed in school.

The two-day Trauma-Skilled Schools Institute goes beyond "trauma informed" and "trauma sensitivity" to action. The Trauma-Skilled Schools Institute shares the findings and recommendations of NDPC's study of trauma's impact on school outcomes by a national research team over a three-year period. The Institute addresses the advantages and limitations of common school, district, and state responses to the issue and prepares participants to determine and implement specific action steps in their local setting.

The Institute may be utilized as a first step for schools to begin local implementation of the Trauma-Skilled Schools Model, may be a beginning step for schools desiring to implement the model with additional training and support of the National Dropout Prevention Center, or may be utilized by participants as one of several additional professional development activities leading to individual Certification as a Trauma-Skilled Specialist. The Institute's two days are interactive, with participants receiving information, reflecting on trauma in their local context, and identifying best action steps for their schools. Access to materials and workbooks is provided to assist participants with local implementation.

The Trauma-Skilled Schools Institute is delivered by teams of NDPC's Trauma-Skilled Schools Faculty who participated in initial research and development of the Model. For best results, NDPC recommends attendance by a 4- to 6-member team from participating schools or districts with a recommended enrollment of 100 or fewer participants per event.

Trauma-Skilled Schools Institutes are portable, cost-effective, and easily offered as regional drive-in events. NDPC can provide Trauma-Skilled Schools Institutes locally or regionally and all costs of delivery, travel, and materials, but excluding costs of venue and food, are included in contract costs. NDPC will provide promotional materials and online registration support for sponsoring agencies.

For additional information, contact Dr. Sandy Addis, Director, National Dropout Prevention Center, at haddis@dropoutprevention.org or at 864-934-8572.