



MANSFIELD R-IV SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE LIONS

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Dear parents/guardians:

Pursuant to Missouri Senate Bill 638, Section 161.1050, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has established the “Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative.” To meet the needs of this mandate, and for the benefit of our students, Mansfield R-IV will be training staff as it becomes a Trauma-Informed school district.

For the purposes of this initiative, the following terms are defined as follows:

“Trauma-informed approach” - an approach that involves understanding and responding to the symptoms of chronic interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress across the lifespan

Trauma-informed schools:

- a. realize the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery
- b. recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma in students, teachers and staff
- c. respond by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into its policies, procedures and practices; and
- d. seek to actively resist re-traumatization

Mansfield R-IV will be adopting the Missouri model as the intended framework for the developmental of a Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative. The implementation of a trauma-informed approach is an ongoing organizational change process. At Mansfield R-IV this model will represent a “continuum” of implementation, where the organization moves through stages. The purpose of this initiative is as follows:

- To ensure that a “do no harm” process is implemented
- To assess the implementation of basic principle of trauma-informed approaches in various organizational settings
- To develop a common language and framework for discussion
- To help increase the effectiveness of services, wherever and whatever they are, by increasing awareness of trauma

*Dr. Nathan Moore,
Superintendent*

*Mr. Richard Wylie,
High School Principal*

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