



Getting Started with **Handle with Care**

Your quick-start guide to this innovative new care program

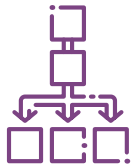
When you want to implement a Handle with Care program in your district, you have a couple initial avenues to explore. If your state has adopted a Handle with Care program, you can find your state Handle With Care site that dives into state-specific resources, complete with contact information for your state representatives.

Without state-level adoption, you can still implement this methodology.

Here's what you'll need to consider in order to do it:



Key players



Systems



Communication

Key Players

Just as you would for any school initiative, you'll want to work with your community to make this program a success.

Law Enforcement

Because it's up to the first responder on the scene to collect a child's information, they'll need to be informed and on board to submit the forms needed to support a Handle with Care program. You'll want to work with a key law enforcement contact who can ensure anyone who arrives on a scene and encounters a child understands the process to submit a Handle with Care referral form.

Your District

With so many people in a district working directly with kids, it's important that everyone be on board with a new program like this one. Handle with Care is only as effective as the individuals who carry out the process, so you'll want to set everyone up for success.

Child Protective Services

When the school is notified about an incident at home, the school is instructed to handle the student with care, but there is no additional information about who was involved in the incident, or what happened. That's to protect everyone's privacy, including the student's. Anytime you're involved in events that potentially place a child in harm's way, Child Protective Services should be involved.

Systems

Handle with Care has the potential to positively impact countless students in your community, but its effectiveness depends on the systems that will help you carry it out. [Frontline School Health Management](#) can help by flagging students who should be handled with care, so that the Handle with Care program seamlessly integrates with your holistic mental health support system.

Additionally, in order to justify the time and care required for Handle with Care, it's a good idea to run regular reports and collect data regarding the number of students impacted, to understand the program's effectiveness and support district mental health staffing needs.

Communication

Handle with Care is a program that depends entirely on communication – in many ways, its entire purpose is to open up the lines of communication between different community members in order to support students. Informing parents of what the program is, why you're taking it on, and what kind of information is and is not available to the school.

Your Action Items

- Identify your key players
- Check if your Electronic Health Records system has Handle with Care capability
- Talk with your team to start getting support