

## **208 COUNSELLING SERVICES**

### **Beliefs**

The Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC) follows cultural and traditional teachings of the Maskwacis Cree, in particular Wahkohtowin. Wahkohtowin is the belief that all things are related and connected, that all of existence has spirit and that living in a good way requires us to maintain good relationships with each other and other aspects of existence. We recognize that respect for mother earth, elders, youth, and the Treaties are paramount to planning ahead and making decisions for future generations.

MESC believes that counselling services are an integral component of the school program. All services provided are respectful of Cree values. Confidential counselling services will be made available to all students as an essential part of the school program. The primary purpose of counselling services is to empower students in the areas of social, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

### **Procedures**

1. MESC will be diligent in providing counselling practices across schools.
2. All students will have access to confidential, individual counselling services. Exceptions to confidentiality will only be made to ensure the safety of the student or others, as guided by the Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Act and the Mental Health Act.
3. Counselling services shall be delivered using a collaborative and multidisciplinary model that accesses appropriate community resources.
4. Confidential individual counselling will be provided by appropriately educated and trained Counsellors.
5. Principals shall develop and implement school procedures in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the MESC Counselling Handbook and related administrative procedures.

6. School Counsellors shall follow the ethical guidelines and roles outlines in the MESC Counselling Handbook and related administrative procedures.

#### Reference

MESC Counselling Handbook

Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Act

Mental Health Act