



BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear BPS Parents, Caregivers, and Staff:

The Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) is deeply concerned by the impact of the recent Buffalo Blizzard of 2022 that has shaken the entire City of Buffalo and surrounding towns. We know that this traumatic Blizzard has affected our students, families, staff, and community in various tragic ways. In alignment with our district's Strategic Plan and a commitment to ensure safety, security, and wellness, beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2023, our BPS Student Support Staff in collaboration with community supports will be available to assist students, teachers, and parents on an ongoing basis to address their social emotional needs and to develop coping strategies.

We know that a catastrophe, such as this blizzard which caused great discomfort for extended periods and even death, will likely affect each of us in a variety of ways depending on our age(s) and prior experiences with trauma. When reacting to stressful events, children may react by:

Appearing not to be affected
Asking a lot of questions
Showing agitation or anger
Worrying that the event could repeat

Thinking about it privately
Being frightened
Demonstrating sadness
Becoming withdrawn

BPS has highly qualified trained and licensed staff who are professionally prepared to address your child's concerns. In addition, our schools have mental health professionals who are also in place to provide an additional layer of support. During this time, we ask that you demonstrate empathy and patience with one another and answer questions honestly and in an age-appropriate manner.

Should you have questions, concerns, or need additional support, please don't hesitate to contact the school's Student Support Services team. Together we can overcome all obstacles. Be well!!!

Sincerely,

Sharon Brown

Dr. Sharon Brown
Chief of Student Support Services