

Isaac's Story debuts to help students, families and teachers start the conversation about mental health



As part of Children's Mental Health Week in May, Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders introduced "[Different Kinds of Hurt: Isaac's Story](#)", a graphic novel for 2nd through 4th grade students on May 7th at the Sarah Greenwood School in Dorchester. In addition to outlining the new educational content to the regional media, Secretary Sudders also read the book to children at the school.

Different Kinds of Hurt: Isaac's Story, an animated film and graphic novel for elementary school-aged children, shows how an honest conversation about how "different kinds of hurting" between two classmates can have a lifelong effect. Isaac's Story, is a comprehensive campaign featuring a video, graphic novel, classroom logistics and additional resources provides compelling outreach that will help to destigmatize and reframe how students talk about mental health.

Teachers will be provided with books, video and discussion questions to encourage discussion and involvement of children. Materials will also be shared with families to continue the conversation at home. The video, book and discussion guides will be available throughout Massachusetts and distribution will commence in Boston. Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health will be sharing the video, book and discussion guides with pediatricians, child therapists, church groups, youth organizations, fraternal organizations and civic groups. The book and discussion guides will be promoted through mass media, [YouTube](#) and Facebook. #ItsOk will be used in social media to spread the word about the campaign.



[View the photos](#) on the DMH Flickr site.