

The Record

Lansingburgh announces Trauma-Sensitive School Partnership

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TROY, N.Y. — The Lansingburgh Central School District has announced a new partnership – the National Center for Safe, Supportive Schools Learning Collaborative (NCS3LC) - with Questar III BOCES, the New York State Education Department (NYSED), Rensselaer County, the Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health and the National Center for Safe, Supportive Schools. Lansingburgh is one of only fifteen school districts nationwide accepted to participate in the NCS3LC, which is a part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

This collaborative offers its members two years of participation in free professional development and consultation from national experts to help with developing culturally responsive, trauma-informed, school mental health systems.

Joseph Otter, Lansingburgh's director of school community partnerships and NCS3LC district team leader, applied for this opportunity in early Spring 2021. "Lansingburgh

Schools, Questar, NYSED and the county all share the same students, plus we all work together to improve the lives and futures of our students," Otter said.

"This will allow us to collectively develop and use the same playbook as we work to make our systems more culturally responsive and trauma-informed to benefit students," Otter explained.

The Lansingburgh Schools NCS3LC Leadership Team includes representation from:

- Lansingburgh Central Schools
- The New York State Education Dept.
- Questar III BOCES
- Rensselaer County
- The Rensselaer County Dept. of Mental Health

Professional development and consultations through the NCS3LC will begin in Fall 2021. Leadership Team representatives will receive monthly training and consultations that they will report to all members of the collective. Staff from two Lansingburgh schools - Turnpike Elementary (Pre-K – 2nd Grade) and Knickerbacker Middle School (Grades 6-8) – will also receive several sessions of professional development.

"We are beyond excited to be one of the few schools nationally receiving this grant," Carrie Phelan, Principal at Lansingburgh's Knickerbacker Middle School, remarked.

"Over the past year, we are seeing more mental health concerns than ever before because of the pandemic and we feel this is critical support for our students and families. This opportunity means we can continue our work with trauma-sensitive and culturally responsive classrooms," Phelan added.

Visit the National Center for Safe, Supportive Schools Learning Collaborative website to learn more about the NCS3LC: <https://www.ncs3.org/states-and-districts>