

Katina George

District Director of Counseling kgeorge@burltwpsch.org

Dear BTSD Families.

One of our greatest challenges continues to be the mental health of our students, and I am so proud of what we have done and what we will be doing to address that.

The district will offer FREE mental health teletherapy for our **K-12 students** through June 2025, pending funds available.

- We have contracted with a private vendor.
- NO insurance companies will be involved.
- NO WAITING months to be connected to a therapist.

To provide this support, the District will connect with a well-regarded, video conferencing service called Gaggle Therapy. It puts students in touch with licensed therapists, and its keys to success include quick appointments, experience with youth, and scheduling flexibility.

<u>Watch this short video</u> to hear from leaders of other school districts who lauded Gaggle for the way its services help students.

How It Works

A student who chooses to participate in Gaggle Therapy will be matched with a therapist for video calls using a computer or tablet from the comfort, privacy, and convenience of their home or school. Scheduling flexibility means weekly, 45-minute sessions can take place during school hours, at night, or on weekends.

Gaggle only partners with licensed therapists who have undergone background checks and who have experience providing mental health support to young people. Gaggle adheres to federal laws and guidelines to keep information private and secure.

What It Costs

<u>Families pay no additional costs</u> for the use of Gaggle's teletherapy service. Although it is free for families, we ask that students attend sessions as scheduled, or cancel a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

If a parent would like to initiate a Gaggle Therapy referral for their child, you may contact their school counselor or case manager directly or parents may register their child through the <u>Gaggle Health Cloud</u>

We want parents and students to understand the resources that are available to address mental health challenges we face today. This is part of our whole-student approach because we know we cannot optimally teach students if barriers are in the way. Thank you for learning more about this new tool.

Sincerely Yours,

Katina George Director of Counseling