



From Policy to Practice

Trauma-Informed Professional Development
for School Staff



Welcome!



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Ontario-Montclair School District

Ontario, California

Co-leading implementation of:

- Community Schools
- McKinney-Vento Services
- Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Restorative Practices
- Trauma-Informed Practices



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Learning Objectives

- **Understand** the key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act and how to apply them in a trauma-informed manner to support students experiencing homelessness.
- **Experience** a professional development model that can be replicated or adapted to train school staff in supporting vulnerable student populations effectively.
- **Develop** actionable steps to enhance collaboration between educators, families, and community partners in addressing barriers to student success.



Setting the Scene

Imagine: You are now a staff member at a local school – being given your annual professional development from your site Homeless Liaison.



OMSD Homeless Education

McKinney-Vento Act
24-25 School Year



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Ontario-Montclair School District

Preschool – 8th grade

2,641 students

total identified OMSD students in transition for 24-25

14.3% of total enrollment

23-24 School Year = highest percentage of identified students in all of San Bernardino County at 14.5%.

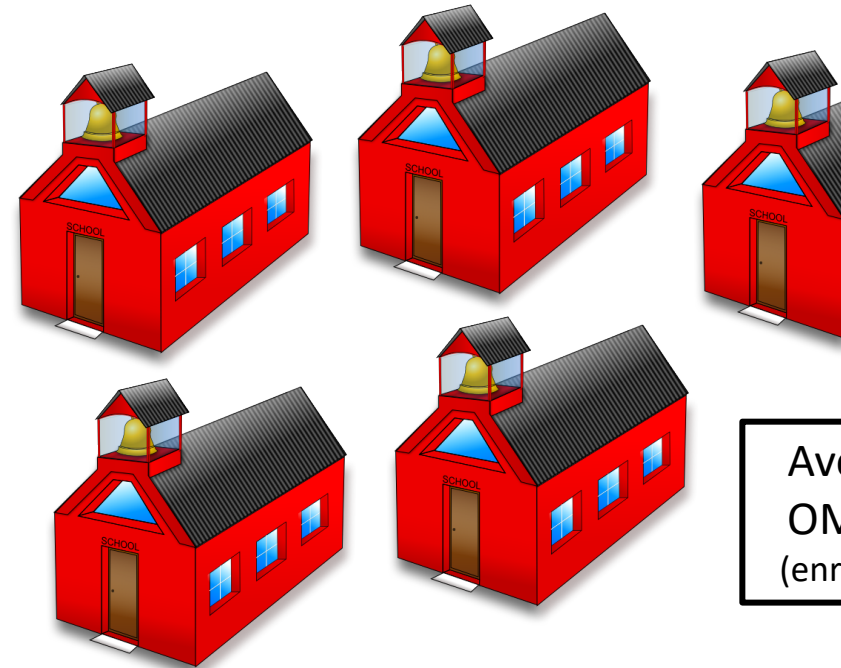


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Ontario-Montclair School District

2,574 students



Background



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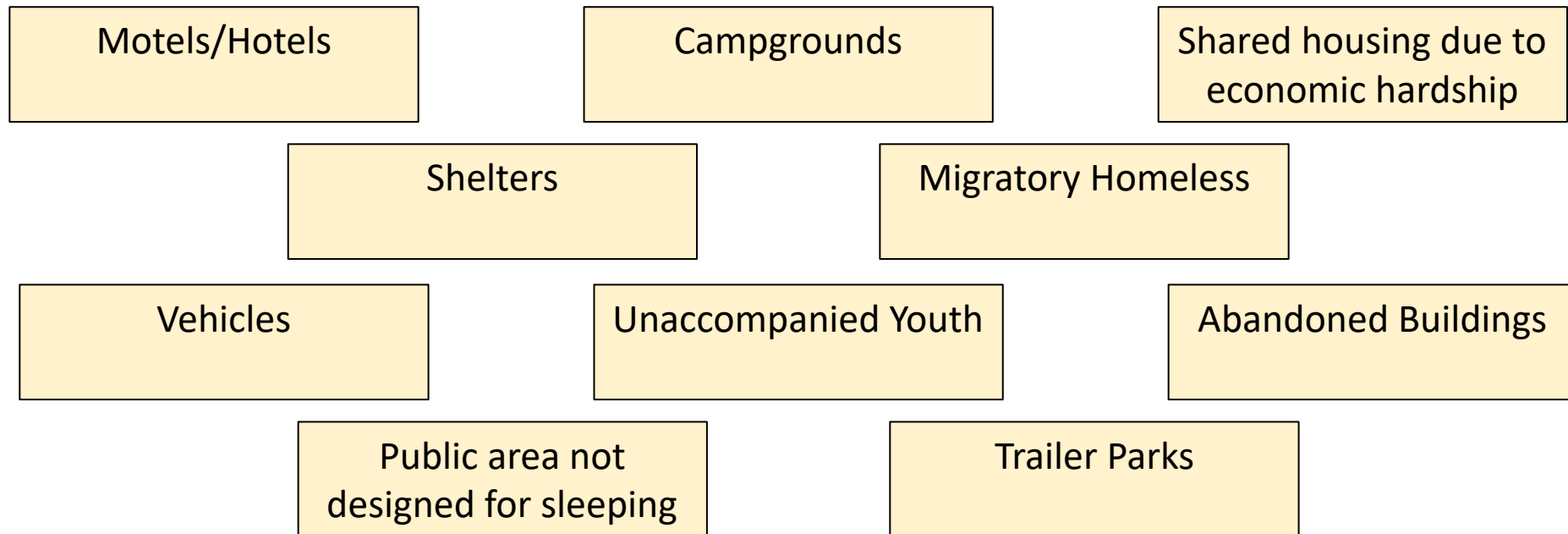


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McKinney-Vento Homeless Definition

Children who lack a fixed, permanent, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.



Barriers to Education



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Their Reality

- Struggles with ability to meet basic physical and psychological needs
- Lack of privacy or personal space
- Concern for safety of belongings
- Struggles to access to medical and dental services
- Higher exposure to violence and emotional stress



Their Reality

**eh C.**
Arvada, CO
0 1 3

**Rancho Motel**
1.5 (4 reviews)
Unclaimed • Hotels


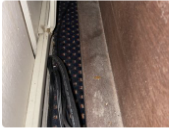

★☆☆☆☆ Apr 27, 2024
3 photos


I NEVER write reviews but this one needs to be written. I booked for 4 days, and when I got there I couldn't stay in the room.


- 1) bugs all over
- 2) mold on the walls and ceiling
- 3) used cigarettes over the floor
- 4) cigarette smell is very strong
- 5) when I turned on the TV, the first thing that came on was explicit adult content.

Tried to get a refund, but they refused to give me any sort of refund or to make anything right. It's not like the place was cheap enough for me to look over all this, it was still \$70 a night. Do yourself a favor and spend \$10-20 more per night and stay somewhere else

I had to leave the same night to another hotel because there was no possible way I could stay there. Also, it's very unsafe. Lots of crack heads and drug addicts. DONT BRING YOUR FAMILY






**Hector S.**
San Francisco, CA
0 1 0


**Pepper Tree Motel**
1.2 (11 reviews)
Unclaimed • \$ • Hotels

★☆☆☆☆ Apr 10, 2023

Roaches everywhere disgusting especially for them to charge you 425 for a week,infested with roaches on wall, in broken cabinets 1star



**Hong Yang C.**
Chino, CA
0 1 0

**Candlewood Suites Ontario - Convention Center**
2.8 (19 reviews)
Claimed • Hotels

★☆☆☆☆ Jun 16, 2024

****DANGER - AVOID THIS HOTEL.****

This hotel is not safe. A stranger attempted to force his way into my room around midnight. I was awakened by a series of loud knocks on my door. When I opened it, a man tried to push his way in by wedging his hand between the door and the frame. I managed to push him back and close the door, but he became furious and hit the door several times before leaving. He appeared and smelled sober, making the situation even more alarming. For your safety and that of your loved ones, please avoid staying at this hotel. Consider what could happen if a family member or a woman traveling alone encountered such a situation.

Their Reality

- Schoolwork/Homework
 - Lack of a place to work quietly
 - Lack of basic supplies at home
 - May struggle to bring supplies to school
- Behaviors
 - Fatigue
 - Chronic hunger
 - Poor attention span
 - Inappropriate school behaviors
 - Difficulty socializing
- Attendance
 - Erratic attendance and tardiness
 - Chronic absenteeism



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Be Aware

Be on the lookout for indicators that a family may be experiencing homelessness and connect with your site Outreach Consultant/Homeless Liaison.

consistent lack of
homework

chronic hunger

fatigue

erratic attendance

changes in behavior

poor grooming or
clothing

Am I punishing my student for prioritizing their survival when they:

- fall asleep in class?
- don't bring their own supplies?
- don't have space to complete homework?
- miss school to babysit or work?
- eat in class?



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Reflection: Barriers to Education

What is one piece of learning you have about our students experiencing homelessness and barriers they may encounter?



Classroom Strategies



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67%

Students who report feeling
uncomfortable disclosing
their homelessness and
seeking help at school

-SchoolHouse Connection



How can we help?

School plays a vital role in **creating a safe & supportive environment** that meets the physical, security, and social needs of our students.

YOU can be the stability that a student experiencing homeless needs!

Physical needs: food and water

Security needs: safety, shelter, and stability

Social needs: love, belonging, and inclusion

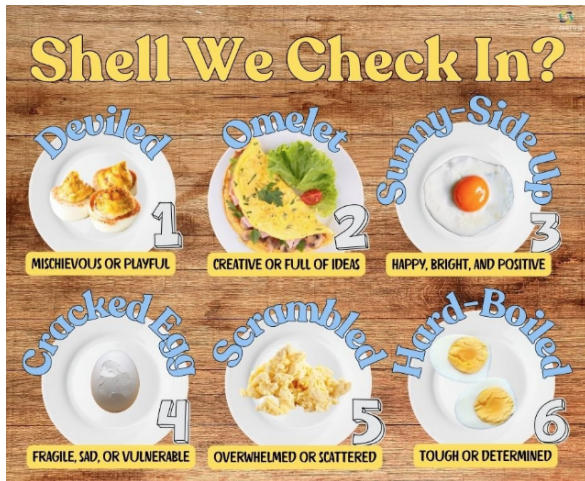


Build Relationships

- Actively work on establishing connections and building relationships with students and families.
- Communicate effectively: Use both technology and paper versions.
- Consider re-thinking questions like “how was your weekend” to questions like “what are you looking forward to at school today?”
- When students/families feel emotionally and physically safe at school, we are better able to meet their needs and remove barriers.

Build Relationships

Check-ins



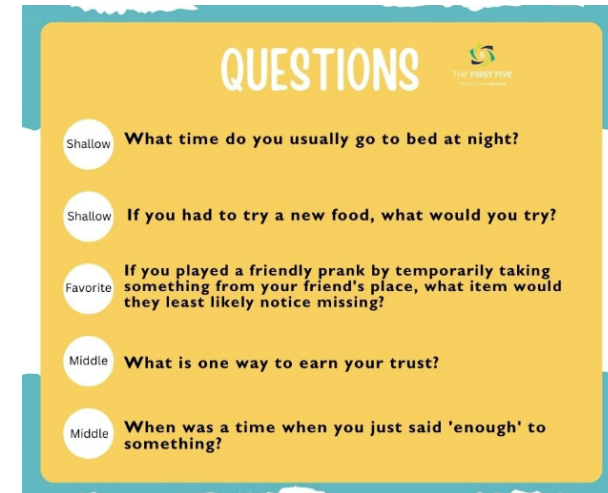
Mindfulness



Positivity



Questions



[Sign up: The First Five](#)

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Trauma-Informed Approach

Address basic needs

- Hunger
- Fatigue
- Safety
- Emotional well-being

Classroom Strategies

- Clear and calm
- Consistent routines
- Calming Corners
- Avoid blame and shame
- Public praise & private correction
- Restorative Practices (with students, not to or for)



Supplies

Ask yourself:

Does my student have access to the appropriate supplies needed to complete this task at home? (both physical materials and space)

When I ask students to bring supplies to class, how can I support my students experiencing homelessness?

Work with the Homeless Liaison to access any supplies you may not have in your classroom for your identified students experiencing homelessness.



Connections

Outreach

Take ALL students on a walking “field trip” by the Outreach office to make connections with resources.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Encourage students to get connected to after school activities such as sports, clubs, and Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOP).

Threshold Greetings

Be Consistent

Greet each student by name daily as they enter your classroom

Keep it Relevant

Customize your greeting according to your grade level

Voice & Choice

Give student options for their greeting

Follow Up

Check-in with students who may need additional help



credit:  HAPPY DAYS first grade

Reflection: Trauma-Informed Strategies

What is one trauma-informed strategy you are willing to try with a student?

or

What is one trauma-informed strategy you believe would be beneficial in supporting students experiencing homelessness?



Ontario-Montclair School District Policy & Procedures



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Annual Re-enrollment

A housing questionnaire is **required by California Ed. Code** to be used by all schools at least annually for ALL students

Rights and Protections guaranteed for the entire school year, even if the student's housing becomes stable

Verification of information provided on the questionnaire is not needed

ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
Enrollment Form

Name _____

Student's **LEGAL** Name: _____ Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Suffix _____
(From Birth Certificate)

Nickname: _____ Female ☐ Male ☐ Nonbinary ☐ Grade _____ () Home Phone _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Birthplace: _____ City _____ State _____ Country _____

Residence Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address (IF DIFFERENT) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

What month and year did your child first enroll in a U.S. school? (Excluding Preschool) _____ / _____ (Month / Year)

What month and year did your child first enroll in a California school? (Excluding Preschool) _____ / _____ (Month / Year)

Has one of the parents/guardians engaged in migrant work (moved and worked seasonally in jobs related to agriculture, lumber or fishery) in the past three years Yes _____ No _____

Are you interested in enrolling your student in the OMSD Online Academy? Yes _____ No _____ (TK – 8th Grade Only)

What services is this student currently receiving?
(Please check all boxes that apply)

☐ Resource (RSP)
☐ Special Day Class (SDC)
☐ Speech/Language
☐ Gifted (GATE)
☐ IEP / 504 Accommodation Plan
☐ Adaptive PE

Transfer: _____ **OFFICE USE ONLY** School: _____
Student I.D. #: _____ Entry Date: _____ Boundary #: _____

Birth Verification: _____ Proof of Residence: _____ Proof of Immunizations: _____
Type: _____ Type: _____ Type: _____
Verified By: _____ Home School: _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Student Lives with: ☐ Father ☐ Mother ☐ Step-Father ☐ Step-Mother ☐ Guardian ☐ Foster/Group Home ☐ Other (Specify) _____

Father's/Guardian's First Name _____ Last Name _____ Cell Phone/Text _____ Home Phone _____

Family Support: Please answer the following 2 questions:

1. Where is your child/family currently living:

☐ In a hotel/motel ☐ Unaccompanied youth
☐ In a shelter or transitional housing program ☐ In a foster care placement or group home
☐ In a car, campsite, non-permanent residence ☐ None of the above reasons apply
☐ Due to financial hardship, we live with more than one family in a house or apartment

2. Would you like someone to contact you with information about resources that may be offered to you? Yes _____ No _____

Employer Name _____ City _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address: _____ ☐ Mother ☐ Guardian

Mother's Education Level: Check the response that describes the highest education level completed:

☐ Not a high school graduate ☐ Some college (includes AA degree) ☐ Graduate school/post graduate training
☐ High school graduate ☐ College graduate

Note: Only by court order can a non-custodial parent be prevented access to a student's records or be prevented from picking up the student

OMS Form 6902

Revised: Jan 2024



*Note: Student rights are given annually within their notifications packet at the start of each school year.

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Attendance

According to California Department of Education's DataQuest, 21.9% of students experiencing homelessness in OMSD were chronically absent.

(In comparison to 15.3% of students in stable housing)

Intervene early: ask student about their interests and needs. Work with the Homeless Liaison to develop a support plan.

Reframe tardiness!

"We are so glad you made it today"

"It seems like this morning may have been stressful for you, is there anything I can do to help?"

Withhold judgement on absences:

"Would you be interested in talking to our site school counselor about possible extra support?"

"It seems like attendance has been a challenge, is there anything we can do to help?"



Ontario-Montclair School District Resources



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Outreach Services

Every school site has an Outreach Consultant (ORC)/Counselor-Outreach Consultant (CORC) that serves as your site McKinney-Vento Liaison. The liaison supports students and families to remove any barriers.

Case Management

Supports to develop a safe and stable family environment by eliminating barriers such as lack of food, clothing, insurance, housing, and access to health care.

Crisis Intervention

Provides emergency mental health and case management services for individuals, families, and schools as needed.

Mental Health

Focuses on assisting students and families to achieve psychological, social, and emotional well-being allowing them to function at full potential.

Basic Needs

Provides immediate resources such as food, shoes, clothing, hygiene kits, internet, & school supplies as needed.

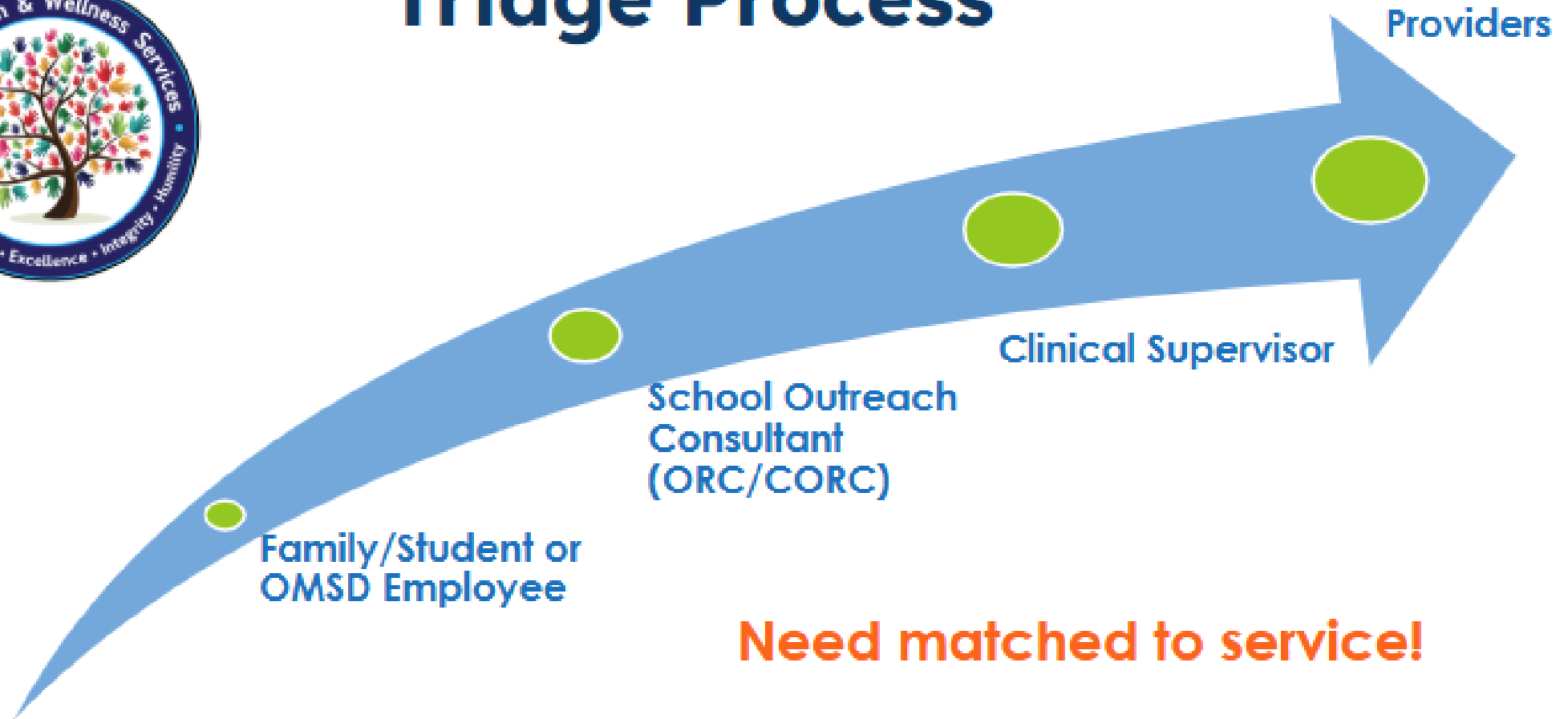


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Triage Process



Need matched to service!



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Final Reflection

What would you tell a co-worker who is not here about this training? What do they need to know?



Thank you!



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