



The Goal:

To provide schools with notice of children experiencing ACEs- for the school to use trauma informed care and trauma sensitive practices “Handle With Care” to reduce and mitigate the negative impact of trauma.

The Process:

HWC process, which originated out of West Virginia, is a collaborative effort between school districts, local law enforcement, Heartland AEA and Iowa Children’s MH Regions. Schools and local law enforcement are trained on ACEs, trauma informed schools and HWC processes. When law enforcement officers respond to or encounter incidents involving or impacting a child, the officer completes a HWC Notice to the school. In the event of additional referral needs, the partnership with Iowa Children’s MH Regions exists to reduce wait time and barriers to receiving appropriate referrals and services.



The Protections:

HWC is confidential, using best practices around trauma informed schools and ACEs, only the child’s name, school building and date of incident are included in the referral.



