




Ohio Handle With Care is a cross-systems, trauma-informed program aimed at ensuring that children who experience adverse events receive appropriate interventions at school and have opportunities to build resilience through positive relationships with school staff and community First Responders.

Participating First Responders are trained to identify children present at a scene, then report their name to the appropriate district using the FREE OhioHWC Notice Portal. No specific information about the event is shared! Schools implement trauma-informed strategies to handle students with care.

First Responders are also invited to participate in OhioHWC's First Responder Visits – visits to schools to allow *all students* opportunities for connection and resilience-building through frequent interactions with a variety of First Responders.



How does a HWC Notice work?
When First Responders encounter a school-aged child at a scene, they collect the following information:

	Student Name	
	School	
	Optional: Age or Gender	

Student's name is reported to the appropriate district or school. That's all - **no details about the ACE are shared.**
School staff handle the student with care.



Ohio Handle With Care

OhioHWC aims to ensure students are *handled with care* throughout the school day(s) following an **Adverse Childhood Experience** – before/without being sent to the office. OhioHWC Notices are never limited to school administration; **All staff - Certified & Classified - within participating districts are trained to support students using the OhioHWC model.**

Key Points of School Staff Training:

1. **AWARENESS:** HWC Notices indicate a student has experienced an adverse event, not indicate a criminal event. *ACEs can happen to anyone!*
2. **OBSERVATION:** *No questions asked* – the event does not determine the response. Observe students for needs and opportunities for care throughout the school day.
3. **CARE:** *Show care instead of consequence!* Practice trauma-informed care strategies. Use discretion while considering, “How can we make the student’s day better?” Consider offering extra time for homework, time for a quick nap in the nurse’s office, and second chances.
4. **RESPECT:** Respect privacy by avoiding discussion of the HWC Notice with the student. Practice trauma-informed care strategies with 3-5 additional students to provide privacy among peers.
5. **REFER:** As necessary, refer to services based on ongoing needs.



Local County/District Coordinators oversee implementation, supported by OhioHWC through **free consultation, training, and resources.** OhioHWC.org features more information, FAQs, resources, and a **statewide map and leadership directory.** Ohio Handle With Care is supported by a partnership between Hopewell Health Centers and the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health.

IMPLEMENTATION OUTLINE

- *Coordinator Consultation(s) with OhioHWC*
- *County Partners Meeting(s)*
- *Training of Trainers*
- *School Staff & First Responder Trainings (15-30 Minutes)*
- *Program Launch: Notices & First Responder Visits*
- *Data Reporting & Maintenance*