

# Handle with Care Tool Guidance



We invite you to use the customizable [Handle with Care Tool](#) to connect with students in a way that aligns with the communication guidelines set forth by your district. These might include:

- Using a Google Voice number tied to your educator account (if your district has Google Apps for Education)
- Using email instead of text
- Using your district voicemail, if available
- Using your district's communication app
- Using your district's Learning Management System (if it has private communications available)
- An educator/school-specific social media profile

You might also consider setting clear expectations with families regarding communication including:

- If and when they can expect a direct response from you, and within what time frame.
- What you can safely do to support their student in the classroom.
- If possible, a referral to the mental health professional serving your school or district in accordance with your district's policies.

Please remember that many students and their families may be experiencing undue stressors at this time. We encourage you to set clear boundaries that honor your personal needs when addressing student concerns, and to seek support from administrators if student needs exceed your available personal resources and scope of practice.

Use of [this tool](#) should be encouraged, but not be mandated under any circumstances.