



**HARVARD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 50**

CENTRAL OFFICE  
401 N. Division Street  
Harvard, IL 60033  
815-943-4022

1/28/22

Harvard Families,

A new initiative that prioritizes our students' mental health has begun in the State of Illinois that will support the work being done by our school counselors and social workers. Governor Pritzker signed a new law that started in January 2022. Students ages 6 to 17 years old across Illinois can now take up to five excused mental health days per school year.

When a student wishes to take a mental health day, a parent must call the student to the main office. When you speak with a secretary, please make them aware that a mental health day is being used. A mental health day is not the same as a sick day, and students do not need a doctor's note. Students will have the opportunity to make up any missed work, and the missed day will not be used against the student's consideration for Cum Laude with attendance.

As advised in the bill, when a mental health day is requested, a school counselor or social worker will reach out to the student and family to offer additional help and resources. After a student takes two mental health days, school personnel will schedule a meeting with the student and parents to create a support plan.

We know the previous two years have been tough on students navigating their education through this pandemic. We are happy to offer a process that prioritizes their mental health.

Sincerely,

Dr. Corey Tafoya  
Harvard CUSD 50 Superintendent