

FamilyFirst Services Decision Chart for Schools:

If working with a student who displays behaviors such as physical or verbal aggression, self-harm, depression, anxiety, substance use or withdrawal, conflict with parents or caregivers, and is at risk of being removed from their home, the child and their family may qualify for FamilyFirst Services. FamilyFirst Services are designed to provide practical parenting supports to address behavioral health needs and keep children in their homes.

Use this decision chart to determine if the child is eligible to receive FamilyFirst Services.

The child must meet the following criteria:

- Birth through 17 years of age
- U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Resident of North Dakota
- Not in an open foster care program. Exception: a youth who is pregnant or parenting
- Must be living in the home of a parent/caregiver
- Is at risk of out-of-home placement if preventative services are not provided

Does the child meet the above criteria?

● Yes, the child does meet criteria

Explore available FamilyFirst Services and providers in your local area. To find these, visit www.hhs.nd.gov/familyfirst.

If age-appropriate services are available and the family is interested, here is what the school can do:

- School assists parent/caregiver with completing application: Individual Applications Public Questionnaire can be found at the website dhs-ive-prod.powerappsportals.us/ffp-home/individual-application-public. NOTE: In the application, if the school personnel know what service they are referring the family for, they can add that into the application.
- School can refer the family to a FamilyFirst provider who will assist the parent/caregiver with completing application: To find service providers, go to www.hhs.nd.gov/familyfirst. Or,
- If the school assists with the application, both the parent/caregiver and the school will be notified of the approval or denial of the application.

If approved, a client ID number will be created, which is needed to move forward with a FamilyFirst provider. If there are questions about programs and locations, they can contact TitleIVEprevention@nd.gov for support.

If the family is not interested at this time, leave them with information on the services stated above in the 'No, the child does not meet criteria' and make them aware they can apply on their own or with additional support if they change their mind.

● No, the child does not meet criteria

Visit hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health or contact a behavioral health navigator at 701-328-8920 or dhsbhd@nd.gov.

The behavioral health navigator can assist and is available to:

- Facilitate connection to mental health and substance use services
- Identify resources for individuals and families
- Assist in interpreting clinical language