



# Understanding and Treating School Anxiety and Refusal Leslie Brankin, Psy.D.

Director of the Young Adult Mood and Anxiety Program at Compass Health Center.

## Anna Finis, Psy.D.

Director of the Child Mood and Anxiety Program at Compass Health Center.

## Toni Boos, Psy.D.

Associate Director of Child Programming at Compass Health Center.

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 7:00 PM CT (on Zoom)**  
**Register: [www.bit.ly/SARFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/SARFANWebinar)**

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with  
Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Catherine Cook School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township High School D202, Family Service Center, Family Service of Glencoe, Foundation 65, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Community High School D115, Lake Forest Country Day School, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, Magnetar Capital, Mindful Psychology Associates, Morgan Park Academy, Near North Montessori School, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Rebel Human, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Sacred Heart Schools, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, The Alliance for Early Childhood, The Avery Coonley School, The Cove School, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Parents' Association, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, Wolcott College Prep, and Woodlands Academy

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: LESLIE BRANKIN, Psy.D., ANNA FINIS, Psy.D., and TONI BOOS, Psy.D. – ON ZOOM CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 7:00-8:00 PM, Understanding and Treating School Anxiety and Refusal, a FAN webinar featuring Leslie Brankin, Psy.D., Anna Finis, Psy.D., and Toni Boos, Psy.D.**

**REGISTER: [www.bit.ly/SARFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/SARFANWebinar).**

**Toni Boos, Psy.D.** will moderate a discussion with **Leslie Brankin, Psy.D.** and **Anna Finis, Psy.D.** about school anxiety and refusal from childhood through young adulthood. This presentation will provide an overview of school anxiety and refusal and will help families gain an understanding of its various presentations, potential causes and functions of refusal behavior, and strategies for supporting youth and young adults in getting to school more consistently. They will also discuss how to best partner and collaborate with schools and community resources to create change.

Drs. Brankin, Finis, and Boos are all licensed clinical psychologists on staff at **Compass Health Center (CHC)**. They will cover a range of topics, including 1) the relationship between anxiety and school refusal behavior; 2) the various functions of school refusal behavior; 3) the role of the family system as it relates to school anxiety and refusal, including an overview of family accommodation and how to set up plans and systems at home to improve school attendance; 4) ways families can partner with schools to support youth and young adults with school anxiety and refusal; and 5) when to seek out professional mental health support.

Dr. Brankin is the director of the Young Adult Mood and Anxiety Program at CHC in Northbrook, IL. Her clinical and professional experience has included working in inpatient hospitals, therapeutic day schools, and community mental health centers. Dr. Finis is the director of CHC's Child Mood and Anxiety Program and specializes in individual, family, and group psychotherapy with children and adolescents presenting with a wide range of behavioral, social, and emotional challenges. Dr. Boos is associate director of child programming at CHC/Northbrook, and co-creator, with Dr. Finis, of the School Anxiety and School Refusal track there. Dr. Boos oversees this track and trains clinicians in exposure and response prevention.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on our website and YouTube channel.

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