

# State Statutes – Suicide Prevention in Schools

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## Alabama

### *School Personnel Training, Student Education, & School Policy:*

**§16-28B-8. Implementation of Standards and Policies:** (a) To the extent that the Legislature shall appropriate funds, or to the extent that any local board may provide funds from other sources, each school system shall implement the following standards and policies for programs in an effort to prevent student suicide:

- (1) Foster individual, family, and group counseling services related to suicide prevention.
- (2) Make referral, crisis intervention, and other related information available for students, parents, and school personnel.
- (3) Foster training for school personnel who are responsible for counseling and supervising students.
- (4) Increase student awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and suicide.
- (5) Educate students in recognizing signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts and warning signs of suicide.
- (6) Inform students of available community suicide prevention services.
- (7) Promote cooperative efforts between school personnel and community suicide prevention program personnel.
- (8) Foster school-based or community-based, or both, alternative programs outside of the classroom.
- (9) Develop a strategy to assist survivors of attempted suicide, students, and school personnel in coping with the issues relating to attempted suicide, suicide, the death of a student, and healing.
- (10) Engage in any other program or activity which the local board determines is appropriate and prudent in the efforts of the school system to prevent student suicide.
- (11) Provide training for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students on the local board policies to prevent harassment, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence.
- (12) Develop a process for discussing with students local board policies relating to the prevention of student suicide and to the prevention of harassment, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence.
- (13) Provide annual training for all certificated school employees in suicide awareness and prevention. This training may be provided within the framework of existing inservice training programs or as a part of required professional development offered by the local school system.

(b) (1) The State Department of Education shall create an advisory committee consisting of practitioners and representatives from all of the following organizations: a. The School Superintendents of Alabama; b. The Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools; c. The Alabama Education Association; d. The Alabama Association of School Boards; e. The Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation; f. Other pertinent mental health and suicide prevention organizations as determined by the department.

- (2) The advisory committee shall assist the department in developing and adopting rules to provide for the training of certificated school employees in suicide awareness and prevention pursuant to subdivision (13) of subsection (a).
- (3) The department and the advisory committee may develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of subdivision (13) of subsection (a). Approved training materials may include, but not be limited to, any of the following: a. Training materials that are currently being used by a local school system; b. Training materials that provide instruction on identifying appropriate mental health services,

both within the school system and within the larger community; c. Training materials that may be completed by self-review.

(c) Each local school system shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. To assist local school systems in developing their own policies for student suicide prevention, the department and advisory committee shall establish a model policy for use by local school systems in accordance with this section.

(d) Any person involved in a cause of action or omission resulting from the implementation of this section or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section, shall be subject to Section 36-1-12.

### *Reporting Suicide Risk:*

**§16-28B-5.** The department [State Department of Education] shall develop a model policy prohibiting harassment, violence, and threats of violence on school property, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored function. The model policy, at a minimum, shall contain all of the following components: ... (5) A procedure for reporting an act of intimidation, threat of suicide, harassment, violence, or threat of violence. An anonymous report may not be the basis for imposing formal disciplinary action against a student.

## **Alaska**

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§TBD** – **Senate Bill 137 (2012)**, adopted on May 23, 2012 – **Mandatory Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training; Immunity:**

(a) A school district, regional educational attendance area, and the department [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development] shall annually provide youth suicide awareness and prevention training approved by the commissioner to each teacher, administrator, counselor, and specialist who is employed by the district, regional educational attendance area, or department to provide services to students in grades seven through 12 in a public school in the state at no cost to the teacher, administrator, counselor, or specialist.

(b) The commissioner shall approve youth suicide awareness and prevention training provided under this section if the training is not less than two hours each year, meets standards for professional continuing education credit in the state, and is periodically reviewed by a qualified person or committee for consistency with generally accepted principles of youth suicide awareness and prevention. The training may be offered through videoconferencing or an individual program of study of designated materials.

(c) A person may not bring a civil action for damages against the state or a school district, or an officer, agent, or employee of the state or a school district, for a death, personal injury, or property damage that results from an act or omission in performing or failing to perform activities or duties authorized under this section. This subsection does not apply to a civil action for damages as a result of intentional misconduct with complete disregard for the safety and property of others. In this subsection, "school district" has the meaning given "district" in AS 14.17.990. (d) The training provided or the failure to provide training under this section may not be construed to impose a specific duty of care on any person. (This Act is repealed July 1, 2016.)

## Arizona

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§15-218. Suicide awareness and prevention training; continuing education:** The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow certificated teachers and administrators to count suicide awareness and prevention training programs as continuing education credits.

## Arkansas

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§6-17-708. Teen suicide awareness and prevention in-service training:**

(a) (1) Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, the Department of Education shall require 2 hours of in-service training in teen suicide awareness and prevention one time every 5 school years for licensed personnel. (2) The in-service training under this section may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials approved by the department.

(b) The in-service training under this section shall count toward the satisfaction of requirements for professional development in the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts and for licensure requirements for licensed personnel.

**§6-17-107. Reporting student drug abuse-Provision of counseling, referrals, medical care, or other assistance to suicidal youths-Immunity from liability:**

(a) Teachers and other school personnel in this state shall be immune from liability and suit for damages for communicating information in good faith concerning drug abuse by any pupil to that pupil's parents, to law enforcement officers, or to health care providers.

(b) **Teachers, school counselors, school health care providers, and other school personnel shall be immune from any civil liability for providing counseling, referral, emergency medical care, or other assistance offered in good faith to suicidal students or other suicidal youth.** "Suicidal" refers to a person who poses a substantial risk of physical harm to himself or herself as manifested by evidence of, threats of, or attempts at suicide or self-inflicted bodily harm or by evidence of other behavior or thoughts that create a grave and imminent risk to his or her physical condition.

(c) This section shall not preclude liability for civil damages where the individual negligently performs professional counseling or nursing services which he or she is licensed under state law to perform.

(d) This section shall not preclude liability for civil damages as the result of gross negligence.

### *Student Education:*

**§6-18-1005. Student services program defined:** (a) "Student services program" means a coordinated effort, which shall include, but is not limited to: ... (7) The distribution of a suicide prevention public awareness program developed for distribution by the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force.

### *School Prevention Programs:*

#### **§20-77-1601 to 20-77-1608. The Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Act**

**§1601. Title:** This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Act".

**§1602. Legislative findings:** (a) The General Assembly finds that youth suicide is a serious problem that: (1) Takes the life of a youngster who has only begun to live; and (2) Can be prevented with suicide intervention strategies. (b) The General Assembly also recognizes that suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 24 and the fourth leading cause of death for persons between the ages of 10 and 14.

**§1603. Purpose:** The purpose of this subchapter is to establish: (1) A task force made up of youth students, classroom teachers, and school counselors that addresses issues related to the prevention of youth suicide in an age group that is most vulnerable to depression; and (2) An advisory council to provide the task force with scientifically based information on youth suicide, including suicide prevention best practices programs and recommendations for the implementation of proven suicide prevention programs for young people in the State of Arkansas.

#### **§1604. Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force-Creation:**

- (a) There is established the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force.
- (b) The task force shall consist of seventeen members as follows:
  - (1) (A) The Governor shall appoint eight members: (i) Two students who are in grades 7 or 8 at the time of appointment; (ii) Two students who are in grades 9-12 at the time of appointment; and (iii) Four students who attend an institution of higher education in the state.
  - (B) Each student appointed under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section shall reside in and represent a different University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences health education center region;
  - (2) The Governor shall appoint two members who are classroom teachers;
  - (3) The Governor shall appoint two members who are school counselors;
  - (4) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint 2 members who represent the state at large:
    - (A) One student who is in grades 9-12 at the time of appointment; and
    - (B) One student who attends an institution of higher education in the state; and
  - (5) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members who represent the state at large:
    - (A) One student who is in grades 9-12 at the time of appointment;
    - (B) One student who attends an institution of higher education in the state; and
  - (6) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee.
- (c) (1) (A) The Governor shall select student members from a list of interested students submitted to the Department of Education. Each student on the list shall have been recommended by the superintendent of the school district in which the student attends school, by the governing body of the charter school or private school at which the student attends school, or by the president of the institution of higher education at which the student is enrolled.
- (B) The Governor shall select student members to represent each of the following health education center regions: (i) Central; (ii) South central; (iii) North central; (iv) Northeast; (v) Northwest; (vi) Southwest; (vii) South; and (viii) Delta.

- (C) Student members shall be at least 13 years of age but less than 22 years of age when appointed.
- (2) The Governor shall select the classroom teacher members from a list of interested teachers who are recommended by the Arkansas Education Association.
- (3) The Governor shall select the school counselor members from a list of interested school counselors who are recommended by the Arkansas Counseling Association.
- (4) All members shall be residents of the State of Arkansas at the time of appointment and throughout their terms.
- (d) (1) In 2005, eight members shall be appointed by the Governor to serve as follows:
  - (A) Two for terms to expire June 30, 2006;
  - (B) Two for terms to expire June 30, 2007;
  - (C) Two for terms to expire June 30, 2008; and
  - (D) Two for terms to expire June 30, 2009.
- (2) In 2005, two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to serve as follows:
  - (A) One for a term to expire June 30, 2006; and
  - (B) One for a term to expire June 30, 2007.
- (3) In 2005, two members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to serve as follows:
  - (A) One for a term to expire June 30, 2008; and
  - (B) One for a term to expire June 30, 2009.
- (4) Subsequent appointments are for terms of 2 years.
- (e) (1) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the official who made the appointment.
- (2) The new appointee shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**§1605. Task force-Mission:** The Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force shall: (1) Assist in increasing the awareness of youth suicide among school personnel and community leaders; (2) Enhance the school climate and relationships among teachers, counselors, and students to encourage everyone to recognize the signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts about youth suicide; (3) Encourage the development and implementation of school-based youth suicide prevention programs and pilot projects; (4) Utilize community resources in the development and implementation of youth suicide prevention programs through cooperative efforts; (5) Increase the awareness of students of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and youth suicide; (6) Advocate programs to collect data on youth suicide attempts; and (7) Develop a program of suicide prevention for distribution to the schools of the State of Arkansas.

**§1606. Task force-Meetings:**

- (a) (1) The Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force shall hold a meeting at least one time during each quarter of the calendar year.
- (2) The Commissioner of Education shall call the first meeting of the task force no later than thirty days after all of the members are appointed to the task force.
- (b) (1) At the first meeting, the task force shall determine by majority vote who shall serve as chair, vice chair, and secretary.
- (2) (A) The task force shall elect officers annually at the first meeting of the task force in each calendar year. (B) Officers shall serve one-year terms.

- (c) A quorum shall consist of not fewer than nine members. An affirmative vote of a quorum is necessary for the disposition of business.
- (d) At the end of each calendar year, the task force shall submit a report to the commissioner.
- (e) (1) The Department of Education shall provide staff and office space to the task force.  
(2) The office space shall be in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- (f) (1) Members shall receive no pay for services with respect to attendance at each meeting.  
(2) However, if funds are appropriated for the purpose, members are entitled to expense reimbursement under § 25-16-902 for each day that the task force meets.

**§1607. Advisory Council to the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force-Creation:**

- (a) To assist the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force, there is established the Advisory Council to the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force.
- (b) The advisory council shall consist of the following members:
  - (1) The Chair of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall appoint two members, one of whom shall be designated as the chair of the advisory council;
  - (2) The Director of the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Human Services shall appoint one member from the Division of Behavioral Health;
  - (3) The Dean of the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall appoint one member from the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;
  - (4) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint member;
  - (5) The Chair of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall appoint one member from a list of three persons submitted by the Arkansas office of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill;
  - (6) The Chair of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall appoint one member from a list of three persons submitted by the Board of Directors of Arkansas for Drug Free Youth; and
  - (7) The chair of the advisory council shall appoint one interested parent from a list of interested parents who respond to a newspaper notice placed by the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences within thirty days of August 12, 2005.
- (c) Each member of the advisory council shall serve for a term of 2 years.
- (d) (1) If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the official who made the appointment.  
(2) The new appointee shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (e) (1) The advisory council shall meet at the times and places that the chair deems necessary, but no meetings shall be held outside the State of Arkansas.  
(2) (A) Five of the members of the advisory council shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. (B) All actions of the advisory council shall be by a quorum.
- (f) (1) Members shall receive no pay for services with respect to attendance at each meeting.  
(2) However, if funds are appropriated for the purpose, members are entitled to expense reimbursement under § 25-16-902 for each day that the advisory council meets.



**§1608. Advisory council-Mission:** The Advisory Council to the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force shall:

- (1) Serve as a liaison between the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force and the scientific and treatment community to ensure that task force activities are firmly based in effective and safe suicide prevention activities;
- (2) Research and make recommendations to the task force, the House Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, the Senate Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the General Assembly regarding successful youth suicide prevention programs used in other states;
- (3) Develop a plan for a model youth suicide prevention program that can be implemented throughout the state with site-specific recommendations and recommend a timeline for the implementation of the model program;
- (4) (A) If funds are appropriated for the purpose, host a conference with national experts in the field of youth suicide prevention.  
(B) The Department of Psychiatry of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall coordinate the conference in conjunction with the task force.  
(C) Invitees to the conference shall include students in grades seven through twelve (7-12), college students, teachers, professors, staff, and administrators of public schools, private schools, and institutions of higher education, mental health professionals, legislators, and other interested persons;
- (5) Monitor and disburse appropriations for the task force, the advisory council, and related activities;
- (6) Apply for, receive, and disburse grants related to youth suicide prevention and research as the advisory council deems appropriate; and
- (7) Participate in the quarterly meetings of the task force.

### *Higher Education:*

**HB 1666 (2017):** An institution of higher education shall provide to each entering full-time undergraduate, graduate, or professional student, including transfer students to the institution of higher education, information about: Available mental health and suicide prevention service offered by the institution of higher education or by any associated organization or program; and Early warning signs that are often present in an appropriate intervention for a person who may be considering suicide. The information required under subsection of this section may: Be provided through a live presentation or a format that allows for student interaction, including an online program or video; and not be provided in a paper format only.

## California

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§41533. (Ed Code) Training in the Prevention of Youth Suicide:** A school district that receives a grant pursuant to this article may expend a portion of those funds to provide to each of its teachers two hours of training in the prevention of youth suicide. The training provided pursuant to this section shall not exceed two hours, and may occur during a regularly scheduled inservice training day.

**§49604. (Ed Code ) Notice regarding suicide prevention training:** The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall send a notice to each middle school, junior high school, and high school that encourages each school to provide suicide prevention training to each school counselor at least one time while employed as a counselor, provides

information on the availability of the suicide prevention training curriculum developed by the State Department of Education, and informs schools about the suicide prevention training provided by the department and describes how a school might retain those services.

**§44046. (Ed Code) Contracting for private social workers as counselors; Services:**

(a) The governing board of a small school district, which does not employ persons charged with school-community duties of counseling students and parents or guardians in their homes, may contract with any qualified social service agency or organization to secure the services, on a part-time or full-time basis, of qualified social workers as counselors in schools and in the homes of pupils. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of this section, but such social workers shall not be required to hold credentials or certification documents otherwise required under this code for service in the public schools.

(b) Social workers authorized to serve under this section, as well as credentialed school social workers in districts other than small school districts, may perform, but are not limited to, the performance of the following service to children, parents, school personnel, and community agencies:

- (1) Group and individual counseling and casework with parents and children relating to learning and adjustment problems of children, including parent education.
- (2) Liaison with community resources offering services to schoolchildren and their families.
- (3) Consultation with parents and others in crisis situations, such as truancy, drug abuse, suicide threats, assaults, and child abuse.
- (4) Assessment of social and behavioral disabilities affecting learning, including but not limited to case study evaluation, recommendations for remediation or placement, and periodic reevaluation.
- (5) Participation in and coordination of staff development programs for professional, paraprofessional, and classified school staff and supervision of pupil personnel services workers.
- (6) Coordination of social service and mental health components of children's centers and other early childhood development programs in the public schools.
- (7) Consultation and collaboration with school personnel to promote a school environment responsive to the needs of children and the planning of educational programs which will prepare children to function in a culturally diversified society.

(c) As used in this section "small school district" means any of the following school districts:

- (1) A unified school district having an average daily attendance of less than 1,501.
- (2) A high school district having an average daily attendance of less than 301.
- (3) An elementary school district having an average daily attendance of less than 901.

**§4098.1-4098.5 (Wel & Ins Code) California Suicide Prevention Act of 2000 (CSPA)** The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The Surgeon General of the United States has described suicide prevention as a serious public health priority, and has called upon each state to develop a strategy for suicide prevention using a public health approach.



(b) In 1996, 3,401 Californians lost their lives to suicide, an average of nine residents per day. It is estimated that there are between 75,000 and 100,000 suicide attempts in California every year. 11 percent of all suicides in the nation take place in California.

(c) Adolescents are far more likely to attempt suicide than their older California counterparts. Data indicate that there are 100 attempts for every adolescent suicide completed. In 1996, 207 California youth died by suicide. Using this estimate, there were likely more than 20,000 suicide attempts made by California adolescents, and approximately 20 percent of all the estimated suicide attempts occurred in California.

(d) Of all of the violent deaths associated with schools nationwide since 1992, 14 percent were suicides.

(e) Homicide and suicide rank as the third and fifth leading causes of death for youth, respectively. Both are preventable. While the death rates for unintentional injuries decreased by more than 40 percent between 1979 and 1996, the death rates for homicide and suicide increased for youth. Evidence is growing in terms of the links between suicide and other forms of violence. This provides compelling reasons for broadening the state's scope in identifying risk factors for self-harmful behavior. The number of estimated youth suicide attempts; and the growing concerns of youth violence can best be addressed through the implementation of successful gatekeeper training programs to identify and refer youth at risk for self-harmful behavior.

(f) The American Association of Suicidology (AAS) conservatively estimates that the lives of at least six persons related to or connected to individuals who attempt or complete suicide are impacted. Using these estimates, in 1996, more than 600,000 Californians, or 1,644 individuals per day, struggled to cope with the impact of suicide.

(g) Restriction of access to lethal means significantly reduces the number of successful suicides.

(h) Actual incidents of suicide attempts are expected to be higher than reported because attempts not requiring medical attention are less likely to be reported. The underreporting of suicide completion is also likely since suicide classification involves conclusions regarding the intent of the deceased. The stigma associated with suicide is also likely to contribute to underreporting.

(i) Without interagency collaboration and support for proven, community-based, culturally competent suicide prevention and intervention programs, occurrences of suicide are likely to rise.

**§4098.1.** (Wel & Ins Code) **CSPA:** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the California Suicide Prevention Act of 2000.

**§4098.2.** (Wel & Ins Code) **CSPA:**

(a) The State Department of Health Care Services, contingent upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, may establish and implement a suicide prevention, education, and gatekeeper training program to reduce the severity, duration, and incidence of suicidal behaviors.

(b) In developing and implementing the components of this program, the department shall build upon the existing network of nonprofit suicide prevention programs in the state, and shall utilize the expertise of existing suicide prevention programs that meet any of the following criteria:

(1) Have been identified by a county as providing suicide prevention services for that county.

(2) Are certified by the American Association of Suicidology.

(3) Meet criteria for suicide prevention programs that may be established by the department.

(c) The program established by this section shall be consistent with the public health model proposed by the Surgeon General of the United States, and the system of care approach pursuant to the Bronzan-McCorquodale Act (Part 2 (commencing with Section 5600) of Division 5).

**§4098.3. (Wel & Ins Code) CSPA:** The department may contract with an outside agency to establish and implement a targeted public awareness and education campaign on suicide prevention and treatment.

**Target populations shall include junior high and high school students**, as well as other selected populations known to be at high risk of suicide.

**§4098.4. (Wel & Ins Code) CSPA:**

(a) The department may contract with local mental health organizations and professionals with expertise in the assessment and treatment of suicidal behaviors to develop an evidence-based assessment and prevention program for suicide that may be integrated with local mental health departments or replicated by public or private suicide treatment programs, or both.

(b) This component may include the creation of guidebooks and training protocols to improve the intervention capabilities of caregivers who work with individuals at risk of suicide. Applicants may reflect several gatekeeper training models that can be replicated in other communities.

**§4098.5. (Wel & Ins Code) CSPA:** The department may establish and implement, or contract with an outside agency for the development of a multicounty, 24-hour, centralized suicide crisis line integrated network. Existing crisis lines that meet specifications of the department and the American Association of Suicidology may be included in this integrated network. The crisis line established under this section shall link persons at risk of committing suicide with local suicide prevention and treatment resources.

## Colorado

### *Student Assessment:*

**§22-1-123. Protection of student data – parental or legal guardian consent for surveys:** (5) (a) A school district shall comply with 20 U.S.C. sec. 1232h. A school or school district employee who requires participation in a survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation in a public school's curriculum or other official school activity shall obtain the written consent of a student's parent or legal guardian before giving the student any survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation intended to reveal information, whether the information is personally identifiable or not, concerning the student or the student's parent's or legal guardian's: (I) Political affiliations; (II) Mental and psychological conditions potentially embarrassing to the student or the student's family; (III) Sexual behavior and attitudes; (IV) Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; (V) Critical appraisals of individuals with whom a student has close family relationships; (VI) Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and members of the clergy; (VII) Income, except as required by law; (VIII) Social security number; or (IX) Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs...(g) Nothing in this subsection (5) limits the ability of a school district to administer a suicide assessment or threat assessment.

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§22-60.5-110. Renewal of License:** ... (3) (a) A licensee may renew his or her professional license by submitting an application for renewal, paying the fee established by the state board of education pursuant to section 22-60.5-112, and providing the affidavit of satisfactory completion of ongoing professional development as described in paragraph (a.5) of this subsection (3). A licensee need not be employed as a professional educator during all or any portion of the term for which his or her professional educator license is valid. Employment as a professional educator shall not constitute a requirement for renewal of a professional license. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection (3), the professional development activities completed by an applicant for license renewal shall apply equally to renewal of any professional educator license or endorsement held by the applicant.

(a.5) A licensee who seeks renewal of his or her professional license shall sign and submit with the renewal application an affidavit in which the licensee affirms under oath that he or she satisfactorily completed the ongoing professional development activities specified in the affidavit; that the activities were completed within the term of the professional license; and that, to the best of the licensee's knowledge, the activities meet the requirements of this section and rules adopted by the state board of education implementing this section. The department may accept a licensee's affidavit of satisfactory completion of ongoing professional development as proof of completion of the specified professional development activities without further verification.

(b) A professional licensee shall complete such ongoing professional development within the period of time for which such professional license is valid. **Such professional development may include, but need not be limited to, in-service education programs, including programs concerning juvenile mental health issues and the awareness and prevention of youth suicide;** college or university credit from an accepted institution of higher education or a community, technical, or junior college; educational travel that meets the requirements specified in paragraph (d) of this subsection (3); involvement in school reform; internships; and ongoing professional development training and experiences.

### *School Safety:*

**§24-33.5-1801. Legislative declaration:** (1) The general assembly hereby finds that: (a) A safe and healthy learning environment for all students in Colorado is an important priority for the state; (b) Research into evidence-based practices continues to demonstrate that academic achievement improves as the level of safety and security in a school increases; (c) Studies of recent school attacks have established that school violence may be prevented with appropriate information sharing; (d) Suicide, which remains one of the leading causes of death for Colorado's youth, may also be prevented with appropriate intervention; (e) Both the physical and psychological well-being of students and school personnel is critically important; and (f) Improving student engagement, including reducing dropout rates and truancy levels, is an important factor for ensuring that schools are safe and successful.

(2) The general assembly further finds that: (a) The most appropriate way to prevent and prepare for acts of violence and other emergencies that may occur on school campuses is to foster a cooperative effort by schools, law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, behavioral health experts, parents, and community members to identify, gather, and apply the necessary resources; and (b) Emergency response

and crisis management measures should be implemented in all communities within the state to protect students and school personnel.

(3) Now, therefore, the general assembly declares that: (a) Safe schools are a matter of statewide concern; (b) All schools have common needs and goals to ensure a safe environment; (c) Resources are needed to fully develop safety plans and practices in Colorado's schools, colleges, and universities; and (d) A school safety resource center dedicated to providing evidence-based practices and expertise to all schools is a cost-effective means to improve school safety.

## Connecticut

### *School Personnel Training:*

#### **§10-145a. Certificates of qualification. Specific components of teacher preparation programs:**

... (c) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall be encouraged to complete a (1) health component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease prevention and community and consumer health, and (2) mental health component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited to, youth suicide, child abuse and alcohol and drug abuse.

(d) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall complete a school violence, bullying, as defined in section 10-222d, and suicide prevention and conflict resolution component of such a program.

**§10-220a. In-service training. Professional development committees. Institutes for educators. Cooperating teacher program, regulations:** (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on

(1) the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse,

(2) health and mental health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence, child abuse and **youth suicide...**

(4) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, **the prevention of and response to youth suicide** and the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that those boards of education that implement any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the Department of Education and is consistent with subsection (d) of section 10-145a, subsection (a) of section 10-220a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160 \*, shall not be required to provide in-service training on the identification and prevention of and response to bullying...

### *Student Education:*

**§10-16b. Prescribed courses of study:** (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally qualified teachers...health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease prevention, community and consumer health, physical, **mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention**, substance abuse prevention, safety, which may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention...

(c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1, 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

(d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: ... (7) topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

### *School Prevention Programs:*

**§10-19m. Youth service bureaus. Annual report. Regulations:** (a) For the purposes of this section, "youth" means a person from birth to eighteen years of age. Any one or more municipalities or any one or more private youth-serving organizations, designated to act as agents of one or more municipalities, may establish a multipurpose youth service bureau for the purposes of evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of services, including prevention and intervention programs for delinquent, predelinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youths referred to such bureau by schools, police, juvenile courts, adult courts, local youth-serving agencies, parents and self-referrals. A youth service bureau shall be the coordinating unit of community-based services to provide comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment and follow-up services.

(b) A youth service bureau established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the following services: (1) Individual and group counseling; (2) parent training and family therapy; (3) work placement and employment counseling; (4) alternative and special educational opportunities; (5) recreational and youth enrichment programs; (6) outreach programs to insure participation and planning by the entire community for the development of regional and community-based youth services; (7) preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, **youth suicide**, violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and (8) programs that develop positive youth involvement. Such services shall be designed to meet the needs of youths by the diversion of troubled youths from the justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all youths to function as responsible members of their communities.

(c) The Commissioner of Education shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, establishing minimum standards for such youth service bureaus and the criteria for qualifying for state cost-sharing grants, including, but not limited to, allowable sources of funds covering the local share of the costs of operating such bureaus, acceptable in-kind contributions and application procedures. Said commissioner

shall, on December 1, 2011, and biennially thereafter, report to the General Assembly on the referral or diversion of children under the age of eighteen years from the juvenile justice system and the court system. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of times any child is so diverted, the number of children diverted, the type of service provided to any such child, by whom such child was diverted, the ages of the children diverted and such other information and statistics as the General Assembly may request from time to time. Any such report shall contain no identifying information about any particular child.

**§10-221. Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures:** ...(e) Not later than July 1, 1990, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. Each such board of education may establish a student assistance program to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youths, referral services and training for teachers and other school professionals and students who provide assistance in the program.

## Delaware

### *School Personnel Training & School Policy:*

Title 14, Chapter 41, **§4124 Suicide prevention.** (a) Each local education agency shall ensure that its public school employees receive combined training each year totaling 90 minutes on suicide prevention. The training materials shall be evidence based and developed and/or approved by the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families and the Department of Education. Any in-service training required by this section shall be provided within the contracted school year as provided in §1305(e) of this title.

(b) Each local education agency shall establish a policy which shall require but not be limited to the following: (1) Recognition of the serious problem of youth suicide; (2) The development of a suicide prevention program; (3) That each school within a local education agency establish a committee that is responsible for coordinating the suicide prevention program within that school; (4) A statement prohibiting retaliation against a student employee, school volunteer or student for reporting the warning signs of suicide; (5) That a procedure be established for the confidential and anonymous reporting of the warning signs of suicide; (6) That a procedure be established for communication between school staff members and medical professionals who are involved in treating students for suicide issues.

(c) Each local education agency shall adopt the policy required by subsection (b) and shall submit a copy to the Delaware Department of Education by September 1, 2016. Any policy changes shall be provided to the Department within 60 calendar days. For any local education agency opening after September 1, 2016, the policy shall be provided by September 1st of the year the local education agency opens.

(d) The policy adopted pursuant to this section shall appear in the student and staff handbook and on the website of each local education agency.

(e) A school employee, school volunteer or student is individually immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting warning signs of suicide to the appropriate person or persons using the procedures specified in the local education agency's suicide prevention policy, but there shall be no such immunity if the act of reporting constituted gross negligence and/or reckless, willful or intentional conduct.



## District of Columbia

### *School Personnel Training & School Policy:*

**DC B21-0361 [Grosso], the Youth Suicide Prevention and School Climate Survey Amendment Act of 2015:** BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Youth Suicide Prevention and School Climate Survey Amendment Act of 2016”.

Sec. 2. Section 115b of the Department of Mental Health Establishment Amendment Act of 2001, effective June 7, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-141; D.C. Official Code §7-1131.17), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (a) is amended as follows: (1) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the word “and” at the end. (2) Paragraph (2) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase “; and” in its place. (3) A new paragraph (3) is added to read as follows: “(3) Recognize the warning signs and risk factors for youth suicide and implement best practices for suicide prevention, suicide intervention, and suicide postvention.”.

(b) Subsection (b)(1) is amended by striking the phrase “Starting October 1, 2014, completion of the program shall be mandatory for all.” and inserting the phrase “Starting October 1, 2016, completion of the program shall be mandatory once every 2 years for all.” in its place.

(c) A new subsection (e) is added to read as follows: “(e) For the purposes of this section, the term:

“(1) “Suicide intervention” means specific actions schools can take in response to student suicidal behavior, including: “(A) Student supervision; “(B) Notification of parents or guardians; “(C) Crisis-response protocols; “(D) When and how to request an immediate mental health assessment or emergency services; and “(E) School re-entry procedures following a student mental health crisis.

“(2) “Suicide postvention” means planned support and interventions schools can implement after a suicide attempt or suicide death of a member of the school community that are designed to: “(A) Reduce the risk of suicide contagion; “(B) Provide support for affected students and school-based personnel; “(C) Address the social stigma associated with suicide; and “(D) Disseminate factual information about suicide.

“(3) “Suicide prevention” means specific actions schools can take to recognize and reduce suicidal behavior, including: “(A) Identifying risk and protective factors for suicide and suicide warning signs; “(B) Establishing a process by which students are referred to a behavioral health provider for help; “(C) Making available school-based and community-based mental health supports; “(D) Providing the location of available online and community suicide prevention resources, including local crisis centers and hotlines; and “(E) Adopting policies and protocols regarding suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, school safety, and crisis response.”.

Sec. 3. Section 3(b) of the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2602(b)), is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph (23) is amended by striking the word “and” at the end.

(b) Paragraph (24)(F) is amended by striking the period and inserting a semicolon in its place.

(c) New paragraphs (25), (26), and (27) are added to read as follows:

“(25)(A) Develop and publish online written guidance to assist LEAs in developing and adopting policies and procedures for handling aspects of student mental and behavioral health. The written guidance shall include model policies for identifying, appropriately supporting, and referring to behavioral health service providers students with mental and behavioral health concerns, and model policies for suicide prevention, suicide intervention, and suicide postvention, especially for at-risk youth sub-groups.

“(B) OSSE shall examine its guidance on mental and behavioral health in schools at least every 5 years and update its guidance as needed. Within 30 days of updating its guidance, OSSE shall notify LEAs of the update.

“(C) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term:

“(i) “At-risk youth sub-groups” means: “(I) Youth living with mental illness or substance-use disorders; “(II) Youth who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide; “(III) Youth in out-of-home settings; “(IV) Youth experiencing homelessness; “(V) Youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning; “(VI) Youth bereaved by suicide; and “(VII) Other populations identified as at-risk of suicide in the most recent DC Youth Risk Behavior Survey results.

“(ii) “Suicide intervention” means specific actions schools can take in response to student suicidal behavior, including: “(I) Student supervision; “(II) Notification of parents or guardians; “(III) Crisis-response protocols; “(IV) When and how to request an immediate mental health assessment or emergency services; and “(V) School re-entry procedures following a student mental health crisis.

“(iii) “Suicide postvention” means planned support and interventions schools can implement after a suicide attempt or suicide death of a member of the school community that are designed to: “(I) Reduce the risk of suicide contagion; “(II) Provide support for affected students and school-based personnel; “(III) Address the social stigma associated with suicide; and “(IV) Disseminate factual information about suicide.

“(iv) “Suicide prevention” means specific actions schools can take to recognize and reduce suicidal behavior, including: “(I) Identifying risk and protective factors for suicide and suicide warning signs; “(II) Establishing a process by which students are referred to a behavioral health provider for help; “(III) Making available school-based and community-based mental health supports; “(IV) Providing the location of available online and community suicide prevention resources, including local crisis centers and hotlines; and “(V) Adopting policies and protocols regarding suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, school safety, and crisis response;

“(26)(A) Develop and publish a publicly accessible online catalogue of all professional development or training programs offered by OSSE. For each professional development or training program, the catalogue shall include the following:

“(i) Date, time, and location of program sessions;

“(ii) A program description;

“(iii) The number of seats available per session of the program;

“(iv) Prerequisites for a particular session or program; and

“(v) Instructions for registration.

“(B) By June 30 of each year, beginning in 2017, OSSE shall publicly release its catalogue of professional development and training programs offered for the upcoming school year, and it shall periodically update the catalogue as additional programs are added; and

“(27)(A) Beginning in school year 2016-2017 and continuing through school year 2019-2020, implement a pilot program at select District of Columbia public schools and public charter schools for collecting school climate data through school climate surveys.

“(B) Pursuant to the pilot program, participating District of Columbia public schools and public charter schools, in conjunction with OSSE, shall annually issue a school climate survey to enrolled students in grades 7-10, school-based personnel, and the parents or legal guardians of enrolled students in grades 7-10.

“(C) Based on the survey data obtained pursuant to the pilot program described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, OSSE shall annually analyze school climate in the District and report its findings to the Mayor and the Council no later than October 1 following the school year in which the climate data was collected. Each annual report shall include an analysis of school climate data in light of participating schools’ student demographics, to be measured, at a minimum, by students’:

“(i) Race or ethnicity;

“(ii) Gender;

“(iii) Status as an English language learner;

“(iv) Status as a student with an individualized education program; and

“(v) Status as an at-risk student, as defined by section 102(2A) of the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public Schools and Public Charter Schools Act of 1998, effective March 26, 1999 (D.C. Law 12-207; D.C. Official Code § 38-2901(2A)).

“(D) By December 1, 2019, OSSE shall submit to the Council a plan to expand school climate surveys to all District of Columbia public schools and public charter schools serving any grade 6-12, beginning in school year 2020-2021.

“(E) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “school climate survey” means a comprehensive Internet-based survey platform designed to be implemented by local education agencies to collect data from students, parents, and school staff on 3 key domains of school climate:

“(i) Engagement, including cultural and linguistic competence, relationships, and participation;

“(ii) Safety, including emotional safety, physical safety, bullying and cyberbullying, substance use, and emergency readiness and management; and

“(iii) Environment, including physical environment, instructional environment, physical health, mental health, and discipline.”.

Sec. 4. Applicability. (a) This act shall apply upon the date of inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan. (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan, and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council of the certification. (c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in the District of Columbia Register. (2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the applicability of this act.

Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 6. Effective date. This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

## Florida

### *School Personnel Training:*

#### **1012.583 Continuing education and inservice training for youth suicide awareness and prevention:**

(1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts, shall develop a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials that may be used for training in youth suicide awareness and prevention for instructional personnel in elementary school, middle school, and high school.

The approved list of materials:

(a) Must include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services and how to refer youth and their families to those services.

(b) May include materials currently being used by a school district if such materials meet any criteria established by the department.

(c) May include programs that instructional personnel can complete through a self-review of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention materials.

(2) A school that chooses to incorporate 2 hours of training offered pursuant to this section shall be considered a "Suicide Prevention Certified School." The training must be included in the existing continuing education or inservice training requirements for instructional personnel and may not add to the total hours currently required by the department. A school that chooses to participate in the training must require all instructional personnel to participate.

(3) A school that participates in the suicide awareness and prevention training pursuant to this section must report its participation to the department. The department shall keep an updated record of all Suicide Prevention Certified Schools.

(4) A person has no cause of action for any loss or damage caused by an act or omission resulting from the implementation of this section or resulting from any training required by this section unless the loss or

damage was caused by willful or wanton misconduct. This section does not create any new duty of care or basis of liability.

(5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement this section.

*[In May 2011, lawmakers repealed §1006.07 of the Public K-12 Education Support for Learning Student Services school code :*

**§ 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety (~~REPEALED 5/26/2011~~):** *The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including: (7) SUICIDE PREVENTION EDEUCATION. – Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, provide access to suicide prevention educational resources, as approved by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, to all instructional and administrative personnel as part of the school district professional development system under s. 1012.98.]*

**§14.2019. Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention:** (1) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is created within the Department of Children and Family Services. (2) The statewide office shall, within available resources:

(a) Develop a network of community-based programs to improve suicide prevention initiatives. The network shall identify and work to eliminate barriers to providing suicide prevention services to individuals who are at risk of suicide. The network shall consist of stakeholders advocating suicide prevention, including, but not limited to, not-for-profit suicide prevention organizations, faith-based suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement agencies, first responders to emergency calls, suicide prevention community coalitions, **schools and universities**, mental health agencies, substance abuse treatment agencies, health care providers, and school personnel.

(b) Prepare and implement the statewide plan with the advice of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council.

(c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating to suicide prevention.

(d) **Coordinate education and training curricula** in suicide prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first responders to emergency calls, health care providers, **school employees**, and other persons who may have contact with persons at risk of suicide.

(3) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention may seek and accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local source to support the operation and defray the authorized expenses of the office and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. Revenues from grants shall be deposited in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of Children and Family Services. In accordance with s. 216.181(11), the Executive Office of the Governor may request changes to the approved operating budget to allow the expenditure of any additional grant funds collected pursuant to this subsection.

(4) Agencies under the control of the Governor or the Governor and Cabinet are directed, and all others are encouraged, to provide information and support to the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention as requested.

## Georgia

### *School Personnel Training & School Policy:*

#### **§20-2-779.1. Suicide prevention and awareness training; no duty of care imposed**

(a) (1) The Department of Education shall adopt rules to require that all certificated public school personnel receive annual training in suicide awareness and prevention. This training shall be provided within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the Department of Education or as part of required professional development offered by a local school system.

(2) The Department of Education shall, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Suicide Prevention Program established pursuant to Code Section 37-1-27, and suicide prevention experts, develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of this subsection which may include training materials currently being used by a local school system if such training materials meet any criteria established by the department.

(3) Approved materials shall include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services, both within the school and also within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services.

(4) Approved materials may include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

(5) (A) Each local school system shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. Such policies shall be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts, and shall, at a minimum, address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. (B) To assist local school systems in developing their own policies for student suicide prevention, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Suicide Prevention Program within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, shall establish a model policy for use by local school systems in accordance with this Code section.

(b) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this Code section or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this Code section.

(c) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of this Code section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

**§37-1-27. Legislative findings; Suicide Prevention Program; Implementation:** (a) The General Assembly makes the following findings:

(1) Every year in Georgia, approximately 850 people die from suicide;

(2) More Georgians die from suicide than from homicide;

(3) More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined;

(4) Many who attempt suicide do not seek professional help after the attempt;

(5) In Georgia, three out of four suicide deaths involve a firearm;

(6) Factors such as aging, drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment, mental illness, isolation, and bullying in school contribute to causes of suicide; and

(7) Education is necessary to inform the public about the causes of suicide and the early intervention programs that are available.



- (b) There is created the Suicide Prevention Program to be managed by the department.
- (c) The department, in implementing the Suicide Prevention Program, shall:
- (1) Establish a link between state agencies and offices, including but not limited to the Division of Aging Services and Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health, local government agencies, health care providers, hospitals, nursing homes, and jails to collect data on suicide deaths and attempted suicides;
  - (2) Work with public officials to improve firearm safety;
  - (3) Improve education for nurses, judges, physician assistants, social workers, psychologists, and other counselors with regard to suicide education and prevention and expand educational resources for professionals working with those persons most at risk of suicide;
  - (4) **Provide training and minimal screening tools for clergy, teachers and other educational staff**, and correctional workers on how to identify and respond to persons at risk of suicide;
  - (5) Provide educational programs for family members of persons at an elevated risk of suicide;
  - (6) Develop standardized protocols to be used by the department in reviewing suicide death scene investigations;
  - (7) Work to increase the number of follow-back studies of suicides;
  - (8) Work to increase the number of hospitals that code for external causes of injury;
  - (9) Implement a state-wide reporting system for reporting suicides;
  - (10) Support pilot projects to link and analyze information on self-destructive behavior from various, distinct data systems; and
  - (11) Perform such other tasks as deemed appropriate to further suicide education and prevention in Georgia.
- (d) The Suicide Prevention Program shall coordinate with and receive technical assistance from epidemiologists and other staff of the Department of Public Health to support the research and outreach efforts related to this program.

## Hawaii

(No statutes found)

## Idaho

### *School Prevention Programs:*

#### **§16-2404A. Teen early intervention mental health and substance abuse specialist program:**

- (1) The department of health and welfare shall be authorized to contract for teen early intervention specialists to **work with teens at risk and their families in school districts**.
- (2) The teen early intervention specialist shall be a certified counselor or a social worker with a clinical background in mental health or substance abuse as prescribed by the department of health and welfare by rule.
- (3) The salary paid to the teen early intervention specialist shall be equivalent to the salary paid to

comparably trained and experienced individuals employed by the school district in the region in which the community resource is employed.

(4) Teen early intervention specialists shall work with individual teens at risk to offer group counseling, recovery support, **suicide prevention** and other mental health and substance abuse counseling services to teens as needed, regardless of mental health diagnosis.

(5) By permission of school administrators, as prescribed in rule, teens at risk not currently enrolled in a public school may, if assigned by a judge, participate in group or individual teen early intervention specialist counseling sessions or services for teens at risk as appropriate.

(6) **School districts seeking to have one (1) or more teen early intervention specialists placed within its district may apply to the department of health and welfare for such placement.** The department of health and welfare shall establish by rule a simple application process and criteria for placement of teen early intervention specialists in districts. The number of teen early intervention specialists placed in school districts in any given year shall be limited by the funds appropriated to the teen early intervention specialist program in that fiscal year. In evaluating applications for the three (3) year pilot project, the department of health and welfare shall give special consideration to rural districts and shall consider:

- (a) The demonstrated need for mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment for teens at risk in the school district;
- (b) The resources and cooperation which the school district has proposed to contribute to the support of the teen early intervention specialist program for teens at risk; and
- (c) The funding appropriated to the teen early intervention specialist program for teens at risk.

(7) Through an initial three (3) year period beginning at the start of the 2008 school year, the department of health and welfare shall work with local school districts where teen early intervention specialists have been placed to gather data on the effectiveness of this program. This data may be gathered and tracked through cooperative projects with Idaho colleges and universities and may include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Impacts on the number and nature of teen arrests;
- (b) Reductions in the number of teen suicides and suicide attempts;
- (c) Changes in patterns of teen incarceration or involvement with Idaho's juvenile justice system;
- (d) Impacts on local caseloads of practitioners in the department of health and welfare;
- (e) Where applicable, impacts to juvenile mental health or drug courts;
- (f) Changes in academic achievement by teens at risk and by those participating in the teen early intervention specialist program; and
- (g) Changes in the number and nature of student disciplinary actions in schools where teen early intervention specialists have been placed.

## Illinois

### *School Policy:*

#### **§105 ILCS 5/2-3.163 Youth suicide awareness and prevention.**

- (a) This Section may be referred to as Ann Marie's Law.
- (b) The State Board of Education shall do both of the following: (1) In consultation with a youth suicide prevention organization operating in this State and organizations representing school boards and school

personnel, develop a model youth suicide awareness and prevention policy that is consistent with subsection (c) of this Section; (2) Compile, develop, and post on its publicly accessible Internet website both of the following, which may include materials already publicly available:

(A) Recommended guidelines and educational materials for training and professional development.

(B) Recommended resources and age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide awareness and prevention.

(c) The model policy developed by the State Board of Education under subsection (b) of this Section and any policy adopted by a school board under subsection (d) of this Section shall include all of the following:

(1) A statement on youth suicide awareness and prevention;

(2) Protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff and students;

(3) Methods of prevention, including procedures for early identification and referral of students at risk of suicide;

(4) Methods of intervention, including procedures that address an emotional or mental health safety plan for students identified as being at increased risk of suicide;

(5) Methods of responding to a student or staff suicide or suicide attempt;

(6) Reporting procedures;

(7) Recommended resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs, including current contact information for such programs.

(d) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school board shall review and update its current suicide awareness and prevention policy to be consistent with subsection (c) of this Section or adopt an age-appropriate youth suicide awareness and prevention policy consistent with subsection (c) of this Section, inform each school district employee and the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the school district of such policy, and post such policy on the school district's publicly accessible Internet website. The policy adopted by a school board under this subsection (d) may be based upon the model policy developed by the State Board of Education under subsection (b) of this Section.

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§ 105 ILCS 5/34-18.7 Adolescent and teen suicide detection and intervention:** School guidance counselors, teachers, school social workers, and other school personnel who work with pupils in grades 7 through 12 shall be trained to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior in adolescents and teens and shall be taught various intervention techniques. Such training shall be provided within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the Board or as part of the professional development activities required under Section 21-14 of this Code.

**§ 105 ILCS 5/21-14 Registration and renewal of certificates:** (2) Beginning July 1, 2004, in order to satisfy the requirements for continuing professional development provided for in subsection (c) of Section 21-2 of this Code, each Valid and Active Standard Teaching Certificate holder shall complete professional development activities that address the certificate or those certificates that are required of his or her certificated teaching position, if the certificate holder is employed and performing services in an Illinois public or State-operated elementary school, secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement with a governing body or board of control, or that certificate or those certificates most closely related to his or her teaching position, if the certificate holder is employed in a charter school...(3) Continuing professional development activities [that go toward the 120 continuing professional development units that satisfy

requirements for teacher certification] may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:...(H) conferences, workshops, institutes, seminars, and symposiums related to improving the teacher's knowledge and skills as a teacher, subject to disapproval of the activity or event by the State Teacher Certification Board acting jointly with the State Board of Education, including the following: (i) completing non-university credit directly related to student achievement, school improvement plans, or State priorities; (ii) participating in or presenting at workshops, seminars, conferences, institutes, and symposiums; (iii) training as external reviewers for Quality Assurance; (iv) training as reviewers of university teacher preparation programs; or (v) **participating in or presenting at in-service training programs on suicide prevention...**

### *Student Education:*

**§ 105 ILCS 110/3 Comprehensive Health Education Program:** The program established under this Act shall include, but not be limited to, the following major educational areas as a basis for curricula in all elementary and secondary schools in this State: human ecology and health, human growth and development, the emotional, psychological, physiological, hygienic and social responsibilities of family life, including sexual abstinence until marriage, prevention and control of disease, including instruction in grades 6 through 12 on the prevention, transmission and spread of AIDS, sexual assault awareness in secondary schools, public and environmental health, consumer health, safety education and disaster survival, **mental health and illness**, personal health habits, alcohol, drug use, and abuse including the medical and legal ramifications of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, abuse during pregnancy, sexual abstinence until marriage, tobacco, nutrition, and dental health. The program shall also provide course material and instruction to advise pupils of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. The program shall include information about cancer, including without limitation types of cancer, signs and symptoms, risk factors, the importance of early prevention and detection, and information on where to go for help. Notwithstanding the above educational areas, the following areas may also be included as a basis for curricula in all elementary and secondary schools in this State: basic first aid (including, but not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the Heimlich maneuver), heart disease, diabetes, stroke, **the prevention of child abuse, neglect, and suicide, and teen dating violence in grades 8 through 12.**

## Indiana

### *School Policies:*

**HB 1430 (2017):** ...SECTION 5. IC 20-26-5-34.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 34.4. Each school corporation shall adopt a policy addressing measures intended to increase child suicide awareness and prevention. The policy must address the following:

- (1) Counseling services for the child and the child's family related to suicide prevention.
- (2) Availability of referral information for crisis intervention to children, parents, and school corporation staff.
- (3) Increasing awareness of the relationship between suicide and drug and alcohol use.
- (4) Training on warning signs and tendencies that may evidence that a child is considering suicide.
- (5) Availability of information concerning suicide prevention services in the community.

- (6) Cooperation among the school corporation and suicide prevention services in the community.
- (7) Development of a plan to assist survivors of attempted suicide and to assist children and school corporation staff in coping with an attempted suicide or death of a student or school employee.
- (8) Development of any other program or activity that is appropriate.

### *School Personnel Training:*

**HB 1430 (2017):** ...SECTION 6. IC 20-28-3-6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 6. (a) For purposes of this section, "teacher" includes the following:

- (1) A superintendent who holds a license under IC 20-28-5.
- (2) A principal.
- (3) A teacher.
- (4) A librarian.
- (5) A school counselor.
- (6) A school psychologist.
- (7) A school nurse.
- (8) A school social worker.

(b) Beginning after June 30, 2018, each school corporation, charter school, and accredited nonpublic school: shall require all teachers, and may require any other appropriate school employees, who are employed at schools that provide instruction to students in any combination of grade 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 to attend or participate in at least two (2) hours of evidence based inservice youth suicide awareness and prevention training every three (3) school years. The training required under this subsection must be during the teacher's or school employee's contracted day or at a time chosen by the teacher or employee.

(c) Subject to subsection (e), the format of training required under this section may include:

- (1) an in-person presentation;
- (2) an electronic or technology based medium, including self-review modules available on an online system;
- (3) an individual program of study of designated materials; or
- (4) any other method approved by the governing body that is consistent with current professional development standards.

(d) The inservice training required under this section shall count toward the requirements for professional development required by the governing body.

(e) The evidence based youth suicide awareness and prevention training required under subsection (b) must be approved, recommended, or listed as approved by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center or the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

(f) A school or school corporation may leverage any (1) existing or new state and federal grant funds; or (2) free or reduced cost evidence based youth suicide awareness and prevention training provided by any state

agency or qualified statewide or local organization; to cover the costs of the training required under this section

**IC §12-21-5-2 Education and treatment of children with an emotional disturbance:** Sec. 2. The division [of Mental Health and Addiction] is responsible for the following: ...(5) The provision of information and guidance to local school corporations on the development of evidence based programs for basic or inservice courses for teachers and training for teachers on the following: (A) Prevention of child suicide. (B) Recognition of signs that a student may be considering suicide.

**IC §20-28-3-4 Continuing education:** Sec. 4. A governing body may adjourn the governing body's schools for not more than three (3) days in a school year to allow teachers, school administrators, and paraprofessionals to participate in: ...(5) a basic or inservice course of education and training on the prevention of child suicide and the recognition of signs that a student may be considering suicide. A governing body shall pay a teacher the teacher's per diem salary for the teacher's participation.

**IC §20-28-5-3 Requirements for licensing; requirements for CPR and other matters:** ...(d) This subsection does not apply to an applicant for a substitute teacher license. After June 30, 2013, the department [of Education] may not issue an initial practitioner license at any grade level to an applicant for an initial practitioner license unless the applicant shows evidence that the applicant has successfully completed education and training on the prevention of child suicide and the recognition of signs that a student may be considering suicide.

### ***Higher Education:***

**HB 14306 (2017)** ...SECTION 7. IC 21-48 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW ARTICLE TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: ARTICLE 48. SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES. Chapter 1. Suicide Prevention Resources: Sec. 1. (a) Each approved postsecondary educational institution shall adopt a policy to increase awareness of suicide prevention resources available to students and staff, including: (1) crisis intervention resources, including information for national, state, and local suicide prevention hotlines; (2) available mental health programs; (3) programs or resources offering information on crisis hotlines and suicide warning signs; (4) educational and outreach activities related to suicide prevention; (5) postintervention plans, including information on effective communication with students, staff, and parents after the loss of a student or faculty member due to suicide; and (6) mental health services and other support services, including student organizations. (b) Links to information and resources identified in a policy described in subsection (a) shall be posted on the Internet web site of each approved postsecondary educational institution.



## Iowa

### *Early Intervention Programs:*

#### **§279.50 Human Growth and Development instruction:**

1. Each school board shall provide instruction in kindergarten which gives attention to experiences relating to life skills and human growth and development as required in §256.11.

Each school board shall provide instruction in human growth and development including instruction regarding human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relationships, domestic abuse, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome as required in §256.11, in grades one through twelve. Each school board shall annually provide to a parent or guardian of any pupil enrolled in the school district, information about the human growth and development curriculum used in the pupil's grade level and the procedure for inspecting the instructional materials prior to their use in the classroom. A pupil shall not be required to take instruction in human growth and development if the pupil's parent or guardian files with the appropriate principal a written request that the pupil be excused from the instruction. Notification that the written request may be made shall be included in the information provided by the school district.

Each school board or community college which offers general adult education classes or courses shall periodically offer an instructional program in parenting skills and in human growth and development for parents, guardians, prospective biological and adoptive parents, and foster parents.

2. Each area education agency shall periodically offer a staff development program for teachers who provide instruction in human growth and development.
3. The department of education shall identify and disseminate information about early intervention programs for students who are at the greatest risk of suffering from the problem of dropping out of school, substance abuse, adolescent pregnancy, or **suicide**.

## Kansas

### *School Personnel Training & School Policy:*

**Sub SB 323, signed into law 5/11/16:** *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:* New Section 1.  
(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Jason Flatt act.

(b) The board of education of each school district shall provide suicide awareness and prevention programming to all school staff and shall notify the parents or legal guardians of students enrolled in such school district that the training materials provided under such programming are available to such parents or legal guardians. Such programming shall include, at a minimum: (1) At least one hour of training each calendar year based on programs approved by the state board of education. Such training may be satisfied through independent self-review of suicide prevention training materials; and (2) a building crisis plan developed for each school building. Such plan shall include: (A) Steps for recognizing suicide ideation; (B) appropriate methods of interventions; and (C) a crisis recovery plan.

(c) No cause of action may be brought for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this section, or resulting from any training, or lack of training, required by this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

(d) On or before January 1, 2017, the state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

## Kentucky

### *School Personnel Training:*

**KRS § 158.070 School term -- Professional development -- Suicide prevention – Holidays and days closed – Continuing education for certain students – Breakfast program – Scheduling athletic competitions – Missed school days due to emergencies and service credit:** (4) (a) Each local board of education shall use four (4) days of the minimum school term for professional development and collegial planning activities for the professional staff without the presence of pupils pursuant to the requirements of KRS 156.095. At the discretion of the superintendent, one (1) day of professional development may be used for district-wide activities and for training that is mandated by federal or state law. The use of three (3) days shall be planned by each school council, except that the district is encouraged to provide technical assistance and leadership to school councils to maximize existing resources and to encourage shared planning.

(b) In addition to the four (4) days required under paragraph (a) of this subsection, a minimum of two (2) hours of self-study review of suicide prevention materials shall be required for all high school and middle school principals, guidance counselors, and teachers each school year...

**KRS § 161.011 Definitions of “classified employee” and “seniority” – Job classifications and minimum qualifications -- Requirement of written contracts and written personnel policies – Reduction in force – Registry of vacant classified employee positions and training -- Review of local board policies by Department of Education:** (1) (a) "Classified employee" means an employee of a local district who is not required to have certification for his position as provided in KRS 161.020; ...(10) Local school boards shall maintain a registry of all vacant classified employee positions that is available for public inspection in a location determined by the superintendent and make copies available at cost to interested parties. If financially feasible, local school boards may provide training opportunities for classified employees focusing on topics to include but not be limited to suicide prevention, abuse recognition, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). If suicide prevention training is offered it may be accomplished through self-study review of suicide prevention materials...

### *Student Education:*

**KRS § 156.095 Professional development programs -- Professional development coordinator – Long term improvement plans – Suicide prevention awareness information – Electronic consumer bulletin board -- Training to address needs of students at risk – Teacher academics:** (1) The Kentucky Department of Education shall establish, direct, and maintain a statewide program of professional development to improve instruction in the public schools.

(2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator who shall disseminate professional development information to schools and personnel. Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the coordinator shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that may include assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and evaluation assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school councils or groups of teachers, or other coordination activities...

(6) (a) By August 1, 2010, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall post on its Web page suicide prevention awareness information, to include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The Web page shall include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities offered by the cabinet or an agency recognized by the cabinet as a training provider.

(b) By September 1, 2010, and September 1 of each year thereafter, every public middle and high school administrator shall disseminate suicide prevention awareness information to all middle and high school students. The information may be obtained from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program.

(7) The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of materials; names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone numbers; and arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by the department shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific provider or program...

## Louisiana

### *School Personnel Training:*

#### **La. R.S. § 17:437.1. Suicide prevention; in-service training; materials and supplies; limitation on liability:**

A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training in suicide prevention as provided for in Subsection B of this Section. The board shall identify suitable materials for use in such training.

B. The board shall adopt rules to require that all public school teachers, school counselors, and principals and, as determined by the board, other school administrators for whom such training is deemed beneficial participate annually in at least two hours of in-service training in suicide prevention and that such training begin not later than the 2008-2009 school year. Such rules shall include provisions permitting such training to be provided by self-review of suitable materials.

C.(1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this Section or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this Section, unless such loss or damage was caused by willful or wanton misconduct.

(2) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of this Section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

D. This Section shall be known and may be cited as the "Jason Flatt Act".

**La. R.S. §17:416.13. Student code of conduct; requirement; bullying; prohibition; notice; reporting; accountability:** (2) By not later than January 1, 2013, the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school shall: (a) Conduct a review of the student code of conduct required by this Section and amend the code as may be necessary to assure that the policy prohibiting the bullying of a student by another student specifically addresses the behavior constituting bullying, the effect the behavior has on others, including bystanders, and the disciplinary and criminal consequences, and includes the definition of bullying as provided in Subsection C of this Section. **(b) Create a program to provide a minimum of four hours of training each year for all school employees, including bus drivers,** with respect to bullying. The training shall specifically include the following:

- (i) How to recognize the behaviors defined as bullying in Subsection C of this Section.
  - (ii) How to identify students at each grade level in the employee's school who are most likely to become victims of bullying, while not excluding any student from protection from bullying.
  - (iii) How to use appropriate intervention and remediation techniques and procedures.
  - (iv) The procedures by which incidents of bullying are to be reported to school officials.
- (v) Information on suicide prevention, including the relationship between suicide risk factors and bullying.** This content shall be based on information supported by peer-reviewed research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and recognized as accurate by leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant experience.

#### *Student Education and School Prevention Programs:*

**La. R.S. § 17:282.4. Youth suicide prevention programs; intent; rules; services; funding:**

A.(1) The legislature recognizes that adolescent suicide cuts across ethnic, economic, social, and age boundaries and has a tremendous and traumatic impact on surviving family members.

(2) The legislature finds that suicide is a significant cause of death in the United States, and that the health and well-being of our youth is critically important to the public welfare of Louisiana. The legislature further finds that attempted suicide is usually a symptom indicating that a person is experiencing stressful or traumatic events that push their normal coping strategies to the limit.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature to provide appropriate and timely help to Louisiana's youth and families, to improve access and availability of prevention services statewide, and to prevent youth suicide and suicidal behaviors.

B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe such rules and regulations as are necessary and proper for a statewide youth suicide prevention plan in public elementary and secondary schools. Such rules and regulations shall be developed collaboratively with the Department of Health and Hospitals, Adolescent Health Initiative, and shall include the following:

- (1) Procedures for the development of programs in the city, parish, and other local public school systems.
- (2) Standards and policies for programs to offer services which may include but shall not be limited to the following:
  - (a) Individual, family, and group counseling services related to youth suicide prevention.
  - (b) Referral, crisis intervention, and information for students, parents, and school personnel.
  - (c) Training for school personnel and others responsible for counseling or supervising student activities.

C. Any city, parish, or other local public school system offering a youth suicide prevention program established pursuant to this Section shall do so in accordance with such rules and regulations adopted by the state board, and may include but shall not be limited to the following:

- (1) Classroom instruction integrated into the curricula designed to achieve any of the following objectives:
  - (a) Encourage sound decisionmaking and promote ethical development.
  - (b) Increase student awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and youth suicide.
  - (c) Teach students to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts about youth suicide.
  - (d) Inform students of the available community youth suicide prevention services.
  - (e) Further cooperative efforts of school personnel and community youth suicide prevention program personnel.
- (2) School- or community-based alternative programs outside of the classroom.

D.(1) A statewide youth suicide prevention plan shall be implemented upon the appropriation of funds specifically for this purpose. A portion of such funds shall be budgeted for purposes of program implementation to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the Department of Health and Hospitals, Adolescent Health Initiative.

(2) Any local youth suicide prevention program may be established and implemented in a city, parish, or other local public school system upon identifying and securing funds or services from other state and local agencies.

E. The state Department of Education and the Department of Health and Hospitals shall jointly submit an annual report to the Senate and House committees on education on the status and effectiveness of the programs established pursuant to this Section.

## Maine

### *School Personnel Training:*

**20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5-B.** **Suicide awareness education and training:** Each school administrative unit shall develop a plan for suicide prevention awareness education for all school personnel and suicide prevention and intervention training for certain personnel in accordance with this subsection.

A. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year for high schools and in the 2015-2016 school year for elementary and middle schools, a one-hour to 2-hour in-service training module in suicide prevention awareness must be completed by all school personnel. School personnel shall complete the training module by the commencement of the school year or, for those employees who are newly hired, within 6 months from the beginning of employment. Suicide prevention awareness education must be repeated every 5 years.

B. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a one-day course in suicide prevention and intervention training that will result in at least 2 school personnel trained in suicide prevention and intervention must be implemented by each school administrative unit and by each island, charter and public school that is not in a school administrative unit. Additional trained school personnel above the minimum of 2 must receive the training if the number of students in the school administrative unit is above 1,000 as follows:

- (1) For 1,001 to 1,500 students, one additional school employee;
- (2) For 1,501 to 2,000 students, 2 additional school personnel;
- (3) For 2,001 to 2,500 students, 3 additional school personnel;
- (4) For 2,501 to 3,000 students, 4 additional school personnel;
- (5) For 3,001 to 3,500 students, 5 additional school personnel;
- (6) For 3,501 to 4,000 students, 6 additional school personnel;
- (7) For 4,001 to 4,500 students, 7 additional school personnel;
- (8) For 4,501 to 5,000 students, 8 additional school personnel;
- (9) For 5,001 to 5,500 students, 9 additional school personnel;
  
- (10) For 5,501 to 6,000 students, 10 additional school personnel;
- (11) For 6,001 to 6,500 students, 11 additional school personnel;
- (12) For 6,501 to 7,000 students, 12 additional school personnel;
- (13) For 7,001 to 7,500 students, 13 additional school personnel; and
- (14) For 7,501 or more students, 14 additional school personnel.

Suicide prevention and intervention training must be repeated every 5 years.

C. Suicide prevention awareness education and suicide prevention and intervention training under this subsection must conform to national guidelines adopted by organizations that offer best practices, research-based training.

D. Training pursuant to this subsection must count toward satisfaction of professional development requirements for the department and certification requirements for teachers and other professional personnel under chapters 501 and 502. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. The rules must include, but are not limited to, implementation standards for suicide prevention awareness education and for suicide prevention and intervention training. Standards adopted for suicide prevention awareness education must be made available on the department's publicly accessible website. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection before July 1, 2014 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Beginning July 1, 2014, rules adopted by the department pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

### *School Prevention Programs:*

**§ 3007. Teenage Suicide Prevention Program:** The department shall, in cooperation with the Department of Education and the "local action councils" funded in Public Law 1987, chapter 349, Part A under the heading "Human Services, Department of," develop a teenage suicide prevention strategy and a model suicide prevention program to be presented in the secondary schools of the State. Development of such a program must include preparation of relevant educational materials that must be distributed in the schools.

**§19133. Program implementation and oversight:** The [Children's] cabinet shall initiate, implement and oversee programs, policies and services consistent with the purposes of this chapter, which may include but are not limited to: ... (6) Reducing suicide. Reducing the incidence of suicide among Maine youth and improving access to appropriate prevention and intervention services...



## Maryland

### *School Personnel Training*

**HB 920 (2017): §6-122.** (a) Except as provided in §6-704.1 of this title and beginning on or before July 1, 2018, the state board shall require all school personnel to complete training each year, by a method determined by each county board, in the skills required to understand and respond to the social, emotional, and personal development of students, including knowledge and skills relating to (1) the recognition of indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse; and (2) the identification of professional resources to help students in crisis. (b) The training required under subsection (a) of this section shall be (1) provided to school personnel during an in-service program; or (2) a professional development requirement that may be met during time designated for professional development. (c) The state board shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

**§6-704.1. "Lauryn's Law"** (a) On or before July 1, 2016, the Board shall require a certificate holder applying for renewal of a certificate as a school counselor to have obtained training in, by a method determined by the Board, the knowledge and skills required to understand and respond to the social, emotional, and personal development of students, including knowledge and skills relating to (1) the recognition of indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse; and (2) the identification of professional resources to help students in crisis. (b) The training required under subsection (a) of this section shall be commensurate with the duties of a school counselor and may exceed the training required of other school personnel under §6-122 of this title. (c) The Board shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

### *School Prevention Programs & Student Education:*

**§ 7-501. Legislative findings and declaration:** The General Assembly finds and declares that: (1) A statewide Youth Suicide Prevention School Program is essential to address the continuing problem of youth suicide throughout the State; (2) The youth suicide problem often exists in combination with other problems, including drug abuse and alcohol use; (3) A suicide prevention program for young people must emphasize a partnership between educational programs at the State and local levels and community suicide prevention and crisis center agencies; (4) It is of vital importance that a statewide Youth Suicide Prevention School Program be established with shared responsibility at both the State and county levels, and that this cooperation shall be a major tool in efforts to achieve the successful prevention of youth suicide; and (5) County suicide prevention and crisis center agencies along with local education agencies are best suited for developing and implementing programs for statewide youth suicide prevention.

**§ 7-502. Definitions:** (a) In general. -- In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated. (b) Program. -- "Program" means a Youth Suicide Prevention School Program established under this subtitle. (c) Youth service bureau. -- "Youth service bureau" means a program defined under § 9-233 of the Human Services Article.

**§ 7-503. Establishment:** (a) Authority to establish. -- (1) There is a statewide Youth Suicide Prevention School Program administered by the Department in cooperation with: (i) Participating local education agencies; (ii) Local community agencies involved in suicide prevention; (iii) Local community mental health programs; and (iv) Youth service bureaus.

(2) On or before October 1, 1986, the Department may establish a demonstration Youth Suicide Prevention School Program in cooperation with local education agencies in the following political subdivisions: (i) Anne Arundel County; (ii) Baltimore City; (iii) Baltimore County; (iv) Harford County; (v) Howard County; and (vi) Montgomery County.

(b) Local programs. -- Any political subdivision in the State may apply for assistance or grant funds under this subtitle to establish a local Youth Suicide Prevention School Program.

**§ 7-504. Eligibility guidelines; authorized programs:** (a) Regulations for eligibility guidelines. --

(1) The Department shall adopt regulations that set eligibility guidelines for State funding of Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs under this subtitle.

(2) The regulations shall: (i) Establish procedures for developing local programs, in cooperation with local education agencies, youth service bureaus, and community mental health centers; and (ii) Establish standards and policies for programs to offer: (1) Individual, family, and group counseling related to youth suicide prevention; (2) Referral, crisis intervention, and information for students, parents, and school personnel; and (3) **Training for school personnel**, and others responsible for counseling or supervising student activities.

(b) Authorized programs. -- A Youth Suicide Prevention School Program established under this subtitle shall plan, fund, and implement educational programs, which may include any of the following:

(1) **Classroom instruction** designed to achieve any of the following objectives:

- (i) Encourage sound decision making and promote ethical development;
- (ii) Increase pupils' awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and youth suicide;
- (iii) Teach pupils to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies, and other facts about youth suicide;
- (iv) Inform pupils of available community youth suicide prevention services;
- (v) Enhance school climate and relationships between teachers, counselors, and pupils; and
- (vi) Further cooperative efforts of school personnel and community youth suicide prevention program personnel;

(2) School or community based alternative programs outside of the classroom, including:

- (i) Positive peer group programs;
- (ii) A 24-hour "hotline" telephone service, staffed by trained professional counselors;
- (iii) Programs to collect data on youth suicide attempts;
- (iv) Intervention and follow-up;
- (v) Mental health programs to promote mental health awareness and encourage pupils to seek help as soon as it is needed; and
- (vi) Parent education and training programs; and

(3) **Teacher training programs.**

(c) Requirements for programs established under subtitle. -- Any program established under this subtitle shall:

- (1) Assist in increasing the awareness, among school personnel and community leaders, of the incidence of teenage suicide;
- (2) **Train school personnel** in individual and schoolwide strategies for teenage suicide prevention;
- (3) Develop and implement school-based teenage suicide prevention programs and pilot projects;
- (4) Develop and implement school-based pilot mental health programs and peer-to-peer support to address the needs of students suffering from mental illness; and
- (5) Through cooperative efforts, utilize community resources in the development and implementation of teenage suicide prevention programs under this subtitle.

(d) Assistance in development of pilot peer-to-peer mental health awareness programs. -- The Department may assist local school systems in implementing pilot peer-to-peer mental health awareness programs.

**§ 7-505. Duties of Department; funding:** The Department must monitor operations and annually evaluate the effectiveness of programs receiving state funding, and review and approve/disapprove applications for proposed programs. Funding of eligible programs must be a shared responsibility of the state and local education agencies. Eligible programs must submit to the Department a proposed annual budget for review and approval, and the proposed budget of the Department must list the eligible programs and estimate the amount of state funds to be allocated to each. The Department must seek federal funds for Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs under the Garret Lee Smith memorial Act. State funds designated for Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs may be included in the budgets of the Department and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**§7-506. Funds; reports:** (a) The local education agency and the local health department shall identify funds from public and private agencies for development and implementation of the Program. (b) The Department shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly regarding the current status and effectiveness of the Programs established under this subtitle. (c) The Governor shall include funds in the budget to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

**§ 7-415. School Health Program:** (a) Established. -- (1) There is a School Health Program. (2) The general purpose of the Program is to implement a program in two areas of this State in which portions of the population currently are underserved. (3) The Program is designed to: (i) Improve the health of school age children in this State; and (ii) Provide reports on the performance of the Program. (4) Each of the two areas of this State shall be served by separate and equal component parts. One part of the Program will be operated in Baltimore City and the other in Caroline County.

(b) Purposes and objectives. -- (1) The specific purposes and objectives of the Program operated in Baltimore City are: (i) To encourage and promote appropriate and cost effective use of health care services; (ii) To reduce unnecessary use of hospital emergency room services; (iii) To demonstrate the efficacy of involving parents, students, and community organizations in school health programs, particularly with regard to recruiting and retaining students in school health programs; and (iv) To assess whether school health programs could be used as a basis for advising other family members of the student of other sources of primary care. **(2) The specific purposes and objectives of the Program operated in Caroline County are:**

(i) **To concentrate on the early identification, health counseling, and referral for mental health problems to prevent suicides;** (ii) To assess whether school health programs could be used as a basis for advising other family members of the student of other sources of primary care; and (iii) To provide the following health and referral services for students: 1. First aid; 2. Physical exams and sports physicals; 3. Care for minor and chronic illnesses; 4. Immunizations; 5. Preventive health education services; 6. Referrals for counseling at the County Health Department; and 7. Social services referrals.

(c) Use of funds. -- (1) Funds for this Program shall be used to acquire: (i) For the Baltimore City Program, the services of one full-time nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other appropriate health care provider; and (ii) For the Caroline County Program, the services of one full-time nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other appropriate health care provider. (2) The local subdivisions shall be reimbursed for the purchase of necessary supplies for the Program. (3) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Baltimore City Health Department shall designate a part-time health research design analyst: (i) To work with the local subdivisions to collect and analyze data during the Program period; and (ii) Subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to prepare the reports to the General Assembly and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene on July 1, 1992, July 1, 1997, and July 1, 2001 on the status and success of the Program.

(d) Parental consent form. -- The Program staff shall develop or appropriately adapt an existing parental consent form for the provision of health services.

**§ 7-417. Health providers in Caroline County:** (a) Assignment. -- In Caroline County the nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other appropriate health care provider will be assigned, to the extent practicable, to **elementary and middle schools**.

(b) Services included. -- The services provided by the nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other appropriate health care provider shall, to the extent practicable, include: (1) Assessment of the health status of all targeted students in the selected elementary and middle schools including history, physical examination, neuro-developmental evaluation, and all required early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment programs; (2) Provision of health care including well-child care and treatment of common injuries and illnesses; and (3) Integration of health care with existing health care providers and health education programs directed at students, teachers, and parents.

(c) Duties. -- The nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other appropriate health care provider shall: (1) Collaborate with board certified or board eligible pediatricians in the health management of the school children; **(2) Concentrate on the early identification, health counseling, and referral for mental health problems, with an emphasis on suicide prevention;** and (3) Assess, to the extent possible, whether school health programs could be used as a basis for advising other family members of the student of other sources of primary care.

### ***Youth Crisis Hotline:***

**§ 7-431. Telephone number of Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline:** Each county board shall provide each student in grades six through twelve with the telephone number of the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline by: (1) Printing the telephone number prominently in the school handbook; and (2) Printing the telephone number on a student's school identification card, if provided.

## Massachusetts

### *School Personnel Training:*

**Part I, Title XII, Chapter 71 §95.** (a) The department, subject to appropriation, shall adopt rules to require that all public school districts and commonwealth charter schools provide at least 2 hours of suicide awareness and prevention training every 3 years to all licensed school personnel. A new hire shall obtain the training within 6 months of being hired. The training shall be provided within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the department or as part of required professional development activities.

(b) The department shall, in consultation with the department of public health and suicide prevention experts, develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of this section. Approved materials shall include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services both within the school and the larger community, and when and how to refer students and their families to those services.

(c) No person shall have a cause of action for loss or damage caused by an act or omission resulting from the implementation of this section or resulting from the training or lack of training required by this section.

(d) The training or lack of training required by this section shall not be construed to impose a specific duty of care.

**Chapter 284 of the Acts of 2014 (HB4376), Section 116:** By December 3, 2014, the department of elementary and secondary education, subject to appropriation, shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to section 95 of chapter 71 of the General Laws requiring that all public school districts shall provide suicide awareness and prevention training. School personnel hired after the effective date of this section but before December 3, 2014 shall obtain the training by March 4, 2015.

**Part I, Title XII, Chapter 69, § 1L.** **Comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human service discretionary grant program; proposals; rejection; funds:** Subject to appropriation, the board shall establish a comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human service discretionary grant program. Funds for this program may be appropriated from the Health Protection Fund established by section two T of chapter twenty-nine. Comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human service programs shall include, but not be limited to, planning and coordination activities, curriculum development, **in-service training components for all school staff, in-service education, instruction, school counseling services**, health service delivery, promotion of knowledge of child development and appropriate care, effective parenting skills for parents and adolescents, and parent education services **which will promote improved home based learning, the prevention of substance abuse, tobacco use, family violence, child abuse and neglect, teenage pregnancy and eating disorders, AIDS and suicide**, and promote sound health practices including nutritional health and emotional development, improved school counseling services, early intervention services for high risk students, peer counseling and education, incentives for participation by students of both sexes, and increased coordination between schools, parents and existing community services, especially for those students most in need. As the primary educators of their children, parents shall play a substantial role in the design, development and implementation of programs and curriculum...

**Funds may be granted to a school district to provide for program coordinators, in-service training and program materials.** It shall not be the primary focus of programs to finance various school-based clinics...

### *School Prevention Programs:*

**Part I, Title II, Chapter 15, § 1G. Advisory councils to board; membership; duties:** There shall be established advisory councils to the board in the following areas: school and district accountability and assistance; life management skills; home economics; educational personnel; fine arts education; gifted and talented education; math and science education; racial imbalance; parent and community education and involvement; special education; bilingual education; technology education; vocational-technical education; violence prevention; adult basic education; global education and **comprehensive health education and human service programs...**

The advisory council for comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human service programs shall consist of at least fifteen, but shall not exceed thirty, members who represent school counseling professionals, health home economics educators, child and adolescent health service providers, teachers, parents, high school students, school administrators and officials, and the departments of welfare, public health, mental health, youth services, children and families, the department of early education and care, **a suicide prevention specialist**, a substance abuse specialist, a school age child care specialist, a youth programming expert and a member of the clergy...

Each council shall make other **programmatic recommendations** as it deems necessary to fulfill the goals established by the board.

## Michigan

### *School Personnel Training and Student Education:*

**§380.1171 Suicide prevention and awareness; instruction and professional development; availability of model programs and materials to school districts and public school academies; notice to parents; cause of action or legal duty not created; section known as “Chase Edwards law”:** (1) The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy is encouraged to provide age-appropriate instruction for pupils and professional development for school personnel concerning the warning signs and risk factors for suicide and depression and the protective factors that help prevent suicide. The instruction and professional development shall be designed to achieve the following goals:

- (a) To prevent both fatal and nonfatal suicide behaviors among youth.
- (b) To increase pupil awareness of the warning signs and risk factors for suicide and depression.
- (c) To improve access to appropriate prevention services for vulnerable youth groups.

(2) The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy is encouraged to work with school personnel and local or state organizations and resources specializing in suicide prevention and awareness.

(3) The department shall develop or select model programs and materials on suicide prevention and awareness that are appropriate for the purposes of this section, such as the Michigan model for comprehensive school health education, and shall make those model programs and materials available to school districts and public school academies.



(4) If a school district or public school academy provides instruction described in subsection (1), the board of the school district or board of directors of the public school academy shall notify the parents of all pupils of each school in which the instruction is provided about the instruction using the communication method the school district or public school academy normally uses for regular communications with parents.

(5) Failure of a school district or public school academy to comply with subsection (4) does not create a cause of action or constitute a breach of any legal duty in a civil action.

(6) This section shall be known as the "Chase Edwards law".

## Minnesota

### *Funding:*

**§126C.44. SAFE SCHOOLS LEVY:** (a) Each district may make a levy on all taxable property located within the district for the purposes specified in this section. The maximum amount which may be levied for all costs under this section shall be equal to \$30 multiplied by the district's adjusted marginal cost pupil units for the school year. The proceeds of the levy must be reserved and used for directly funding the following purposes or for reimbursing the cities and counties who contract with the district for the following purposes:

(1) to pay the costs incurred for the salaries, benefits, and transportation costs of peace officers and sheriffs for liaison in services in the district's schools;

(2) to pay the costs for a drug abuse prevention program as defined in section 609.101, subdivision 3, paragraph (e), in the elementary schools;

(3) to pay the costs for a gang resistance education training curriculum in the district's schools;

(4) to pay the costs for security in the district's schools and on school property;

(5) to pay the costs for other crime prevention, drug abuse, student and staff safety, **voluntary opt-in suicide prevention tools**, and violence prevention measures taken by the school district; or

(6) to pay costs for licensed school counselors, licensed school nurses, licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, and licensed alcohol and chemical dependency counselors to help provide early responses to problems. For expenditures under clause (1), the district must initially attempt to contract for services to be provided by peace officers or sheriffs with the police department of each city or the sheriff's department of the county within the district containing the school receiving the services. If a local police department or a county sheriff's department does not wish to provide the necessary services, the district may contract for these services with any other police or sheriff's department located entirely or partially within the school district's boundaries.

(b) A school district that is a member of an intermediate school district may include in its authority under this section the costs associated with safe schools activities authorized under paragraph (a) for intermediate school district programs. This authority must not exceed \$10 times the adjusted marginal cost pupil units of the member districts. This authority is in addition to any other authority authorized under this section. Revenue raised under this paragraph must be transferred to the intermediate school district.

### **§145.56. SUICIDE PREVENTION:**

**Subdivision 1. Suicide prevention plan.** --The commissioner of health shall refine, coordinate, and implement the state's suicide prevention plan using an evidence-based, public health approach for a life span plan focused on awareness and prevention, in collaboration with the commissioner of human services; the commissioner of public safety; the commissioner of education; the chancellor of Minnesota State

Colleges and Universities; the president of the University of Minnesota; and appropriate agencies, organizations, and institutions in the community.

**Subd. 2. Community-based programs.** --To the extent funds are appropriated for the purposes of this subdivision, the commissioner shall establish a grant program to fund:

- (1) community-based programs to provide education, outreach, and advocacy services to populations who may be at risk for suicide;
- (2) community-based programs that educate community helpers and gatekeepers, such as family members, spiritual leaders, coaches, and business owners, employers, and coworkers on how to prevent suicide by encouraging help-seeking behaviors;
- (3) community-based programs that educate populations at risk for suicide and community helpers and gatekeepers that must include information on the symptoms of depression and other psychiatric illnesses, the warning signs of suicide, skills for preventing suicides, and making or seeking effective referrals to intervention and community resources; and
- (4) **community-based programs to provide evidence-based suicide prevention and intervention education to school staff, parents, and students in grades kindergarten through 12, and for students attending Minnesota colleges and universities.**

**Subd. 3. Workplace and professional education.** --(a) The commissioner shall promote the use of employee assistance and workplace programs to support employees with depression and other psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse disorders, and refer them to services. In promoting these programs, the commissioner shall collaborate with employer and professional associations, unions, and safety councils. (b) The commissioner shall provide training and technical assistance to local public health and other community-based professionals to provide for integrated implementation of best practices for preventing suicides.

**Subd. 4. Collection and reporting suicide data.** --The commissioner shall coordinate with federal, regional, local, and other state agencies to collect, analyze, and annually issue a public report on Minnesota-specific data on suicide and suicidal behaviors.

**Subd. 5. Periodic evaluations; biennial reports.** --To the extent funds are appropriated for the purposes of this subdivision, the commissioner shall conduct periodic evaluations of the impact of and outcomes from implementation of the state's suicide prevention plan and each of the activities specified in this section. By July 1, 2002, and July 1 of each even-numbered year thereafter, the commissioner shall report the results of these evaluations to the chairs of the policy and finance committees in the house of representatives and senate with jurisdiction over health and human services issues.

## Mississippi

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§ 37-3-101. In-service training on suicide prevention education for all licensed teachers and principals:**

- (1) Each local school district shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. The policies shall be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts, and shall, at a minimum, address procedures relating to

suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. To assist districts in developing policies for student suicide prevention, the State Department of Education shall establish a model policy in consultation with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health for use by local school districts in accordance with this section.

(2) In the 2017-2018 school year, the State Department of Education shall require that local school districts conduct in-service training on suicide prevention education for all school district employees. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health will be responsible for development of the content of the training. This education may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

**§37-3-103. In-service training on suicide prevention education for newly employed licensed teachers and principals:** Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year and annually thereafter, the State Department of Education shall require that local districts conduct in-service training on suicide prevention education for all newly employed school district employees. The Mississippi Department of Mental health will be responsible for development of the content of the training. This education may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

## Missouri

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§170.047.** 1. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, any licensed educator may annually complete up to two hours of training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention as part of the professional development hours required for state board of education certification.

2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop guidelines suitable for training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department shall develop materials that may be used for such training or professional development.

3. For purposes of this section, the term "licensed educator" shall refer to any teacher with a certificate of license to teach issued by the state board of education or any other educator or administrator required to maintain a professional license issued by the state board of education.

4. The department of elementary and secondary education may promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section.

5. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

### *School Policy:*

**170.048.** 1. By July 1, 2018, each district shall adopt a policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention, including plans for how the district will provide for the training and education of its district employees.

2. Each district's policy shall address, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide; (2) Strategies and protocols for helping students at possible risk of suicide; and (3) Protocols for responding to a suicide death.

3. By July 1, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary education shall develop a model policy that districts may adopt. When developing the model policy, the department shall cooperate, consult with, and seek input from organizations that have expertise in youth suicide awareness and prevention. By July 1, 2021, and at least every three years thereafter, the department shall request information and seek feedback from districts on their experience with the policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department shall review this information and may use it to adapt the department's model policy. The department shall post any information on its website that it has received from districts that it deems relevant. The department shall not post any confidential information or any information that personally identifies any student or school employee.

## Montana

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§20-7-1310 Youth suicide awareness and prevention training:** (1) This section may be cited as the “Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Act.”

(2) The office of public instruction shall provide guidance and technical assistance to Montana schools on youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials. All training materials offered must be approved by the office of public instruction, meet the standards for professional development in the state, and be periodically reviewed by a qualified person or committee for consistency with generally accepted principles of youth suicide awareness and prevention training.

(3) The legislature recommends that youth suicide awareness and prevention training be made available annually to each employee of a school district and to staff of the office of public instruction who work directly with any students enrolled in Montana public schools. The training must be provided at no cost to the employee. The training may be offered through any method of training identified in subsection (3).

(4) The legislature recommends that employees under subsection (2) take at least 2 hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training every 5 years. Appropriate methods for delivery of the training include:

- (a) in-person attendance at a live training;
- (b) video conference;
- (c) an individual program of study of designated materials;
- (d) self-review modules available online; and
- (e) any other method chosen by the local school board that is consistent with professional development standards.

### *School Prevention Program:*

**§53-21-1101 Suicide prevention officer -- duties.** (1) The department of public health and human services shall implement a suicide prevention program by January 1, 2008. The program must be administered by a suicide prevention officer attached to the office of the director of the department.

(2) The suicide prevention officer shall:

- (a) coordinate all suicide prevention activities being conducted by the department, including activities in the addictive and mental disorders division, the health resources division, and the public health and safety division, and coordinate with any suicide prevention activities that are conducted by other state

agencies, **including the office of the superintendent of public instruction**, the department of corrections, the department of military affairs, **and the university system**;

- (b) develop a biennial suicide reduction plan that addresses reducing suicides by Montanans of all ages;
- (c) direct a statewide suicide prevention program with activities that include but are not limited to:
  - (i) conducting statewide public awareness campaigns utilizing both paid and free media and including input from government agencies, **school representatives from elementary schools through higher education**, mental health advocacy groups, and other relevant nonprofit organizations;
  - (ii) initiating, in partnership with Montana's tribes and tribal organizations, a public awareness program that is culturally appropriate and that utilizes the modalities best suited for Indian country;
  - (iii) seeking opportunities for research that will improve understanding of suicide in Montana and provide increased suicide-related services;
  - (iv) **training for** medical professionals, military personnel, **school personnel**, social service providers, and the general public on recognizing the early warning signs of suicidality, depression, and other mental illnesses; and
  - (v) providing grants to communities or other government, nonprofit, or tribal entities to start new or sustain existing suicide prevention activities.

## Nebraska

### *School Personnel Training:*

#### **§79-2,146. Suicide awareness and prevention training.**

- (1) Beginning in school year 2015-16, all public school nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, administrators, school social workers, and any other appropriate personnel shall receive at least one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training each year. This training shall be provided within the framework of existing inservice training programs offered by the State Department of Education or as part of required professional development activities.
- (2) The department, in consultation with organizations including, but not limited to, the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Nebraska chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska, the National Alliance on Mental Illness Nebraska, and other organizations and professionals with expertise in suicide prevention, shall develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of subsection (1) of this section. Such materials shall include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services, both within the school and also within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services. Such materials may include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.
- (3) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

## Nevada

### *Student Education:*

**§389.0185. Establishment of courses of study.** The state board shall adopt regulations establishing courses of study and the grade levels for which the courses of study apply for:

1. The academic subjects set forth in NRS 389.018.
2. Citizenship and physical training for pupils enrolled in high school.
3. Physiology, hygiene and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
4. The prevention of **suicide**.
5. Instruction relating to child abuse.
6. The economics of the American system of free enterprise.
7. American Sign Language.
8. Environmental education.
9. Adult roles and responsibilities.

A course of study established for subsection 1 may include one or more of the subjects listed in subsections 2 to 9, inclusive.

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§391.545. Governing body authorized to facilitate and coordinate access to information related to suicide; receipt of information by teachers and administrators does not create additional duty:** 1. The governing body of a regional training program may facilitate and coordinate access to information by teachers and administrators concerning issues related to suicide among pupils. Such information must be offered for educational purposes only. 2. Receipt of or access to information pursuant to subsection 1 does not create a duty for any person in addition to those duties otherwise required in the course of his or her employment.

**§439.511. Creation; purposes; employment of Coordinator; qualifications of Coordinator; duties of Coordinator.** 1. There is hereby created within the office of the Director a Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention. The Department shall implement the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention, which must, without limitation: (a) Create public awareness for issues relating to suicide prevention; (b) Build community networks; and (c) **Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for law enforcement personnel, providers of health care, school employees and other persons who have contact with persons at risk of suicide.**

2. The Director shall employ a Coordinator of the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention...

3. The Coordinator shall: (a) Provide educational activities to the general public relating to suicide prevention; (b) **Provide training** to persons who, as part of their usual routine, have face-to-face contact with persons who may be at risk of suicide, including, without limitation, training to recognize persons at risk of suicide and providing information on how to refer those persons for treatment or supporting services, as appropriate...(e) **Link persons trained in the assessment of and intervention in suicide with schools**, public community centers, nursing homes and other facilities serving persons most at risk of suicide;...(k) **Oversee and provide technical assistance to the person employed to act as a trainer for suicide prevention** pursuant to NRS 439.513...



**439.513. Employment of trainer for suicide prevention; qualifications; duties:** 1. The Coordinator of the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention shall employ a person to act as a trainer for suicide prevention and facilitator for networking for Southern Nevada.

2. The trainer for suicide prevention:

(a) Must have at least the following education and experience: (1) Three years or more of experience in providing education and training relating to suicide prevention to diverse community groups; or (2) A bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral degree in social work, public health, psychology, sociology, counseling or a closely related field and 2 years or more of experience in providing education and training relating to suicide prevention.

(b) Should have as many of the following characteristics as possible: (1) Significant knowledge and experience relating to suicide and suicide prevention; (2) Knowledge of methods of facilitation, networking and community-based suicide prevention programs; (3) Experience in working with diverse community groups and constituents; and (4) Experience in providing suicide awareness information and suicide prevention training.

3. The trainer for suicide prevention must be based in a county whose population is 700,000 or more.

4. The trainer for suicide prevention shall:

(a) Assist the Coordinator of the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention in disseminating and carrying out the Statewide Program in the county in which the trainer for suicide prevention is based;

(b) **Provide information and training relating to suicide prevention to** emergency medical personnel, providers of health care, mental health agencies, social service agencies, churches, public health clinics, **school districts**, law enforcement agencies and other similar community organizations in the county in which the trainer for suicide prevention is based;

(c) Assist the Coordinator of the Statewide Program for Suicide Prevention in developing and carrying out public awareness and media campaigns targeting groups of persons who are at risk of suicide in the county in which the trainer for suicide prevention is based;

(d) Assist in developing a network of community-based programs for suicide prevention in the county in which the trainer for suicide prevention is based, including, without limitation, establishing one or more local advisory groups for suicide prevention; and

(e) Facilitate the sharing of information and the building of consensus among multiple constituent groups in the county in which the trainer for suicide prevention is based, including, without limitation, public agencies, community organizations, advocacy groups for suicide prevention, mental health providers and representatives of the various groups that are at risk for suicide.

## New Hampshire

### *Student Education & School Prevention Programs:*

**§186:11. Duties of State Board of Education:** The state board of education shall, in addition to the duties assigned by RSA 21-N:11: ... IX. Instruction as to Child Abuse Prevention, **Youth Suicide Prevention**, Intoxicants, Drugs, HIV/AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. ... (d) **Provide information about youth suicide prevention to all public and private schools to facilitate the delivery of appropriate courses and programs.** (e) Submit a report no later than December 1, 2010, and biennially thereafter, prepared in

conjunction with the commissioner of the department of education, to the chairpersons of the house and senate education committees, the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, and the senate health and human services committee, detailing the state's efforts in fulfilling the policies relating to health education in kindergarten through grade 12 as set forth in subparagraphs (a)-(d).

## New Jersey

### *School Personnel Training & Student Education:*

**§18A:6-111. Findings, declarations relative to instruction in suicide prevention in public schools:** The Legislature finds and declares that:

- a. Suicide is a leading cause of death for young people in this State. According to the Center for Health Statistics in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, between 1999 and 2001 more than 1,500 young people ages 13 to 18 made suicide attempts which resulted in hospitalization. More than 50 of these attempts were fatal. When young people up to 24 years of age are added to the equation, the number of attempted suicides rises to 3,000 and the number of fatalities rises to nearly 200.
- b. A suicide can devastate a community. According to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), suicide severely impacts the families and friends left behind, who often wrongly live with extreme shame and guilt over not having prevented the death of their loved one. Moreover, many attempts which do not result in death nonetheless end in serious injury to the victims and lifelong trauma to their families and those who know them.
- c. A person who is considering suicide may exhibit behavioral warning signs. If someone notices the warning signs of suicide, it may be possible to avert a tragedy. **With the possible exception of a parent, no one is better situated than a teacher to detect these signs and to initiate appropriate steps to prevent a suicide attempt. Proper training for teaching staff members can thus save pupils' lives** and save the families and friends of would-be victims the trauma of a suicide or suicide attempt. Moreover, early identification of depression and other problems may help to reduce the number of young people who commit or attempt to commit suicide once they have left school and entered adulthood.
- d. **It is therefore appropriate for the Legislature to require: the State Board of Education to require instruction in suicide prevention as part of any continuing education which public school teaching staff members must complete to maintain their certification; and inclusion of suicide prevention awareness in the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.**

**§18A:6-112. Instruction in suicide prevention for public school teaching staff:** The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established in the Department of Children and Families pursuant to P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional development requirement established by the State board for public school teaching staff members, require each public school teaching staff member to complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional with training and experience in mental health issues, in each professional development period. The instruction in suicide prevention shall

include information on the relationship between the risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students who are members of communities identified as having members at high risk of suicide.

**§18A:6-113. Provision for instruction in suicide prevention in school curriculum:** Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the State Board of Education shall revise the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to provide for instruction in suicide prevention in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary school, middle school, and high school pupils.

### *School Prevention Programs:*

**§30:9A-12. Findings, declarations:** The Legislature finds and declares that the incidence of suicide among adolescents has increased alarmingly and suicide presently ranks as the second leading cause of death for adolescents between the ages of 15 and 24 years; that the increase in the rate of adolescent suicide is often associated with the significant changes in life-styles, values and family relationships that are occurring in our society; that the occurrence of adolescent suicide is found among youth of all racial, social and economic backgrounds and even though suicide is underreported as a cause of death for adolescents, in 1982, 114 youth suicides were reported in New Jersey; that mental health professionals believe that **many suicides can be prevented through suicide awareness education programs in the schools** and crisis intervention programs for adolescents and their families in the community; and that in order to ensure that the most effective prevention and crisis intervention programs are available and developed Statewide, **it is necessary to establish a youth suicide prevention program in the State Department of Human Services which will be administered by community mental health services providers in cooperation with local boards of education.**

**§ 30:9A-13. Youth suicide prevention program:** The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services shall establish a program of youth suicide prevention projects which shall be administered by community mental health services providers in consultation with local boards of education. The objectives of the program shall include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Classroom instruction or materials designed to achieve the following objectives: to teach students facts about adolescent suicide and how to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies; to inform students of available community services aimed at prevention of suicide; and to increase students' awareness of the relationship between adolescent suicide and drug and alcohol use.
- b. Training programs for classroom teachers and other teaching staff members in suicide prevention.
- c. Nonclassroom school or community based programs such as a 24-hour "hotline" telephone service staffed by trained professional counselors, crisis intervention and postintervention services, parent education programs and programs for the families of suicide victims.

**§ 30:9A-14. Guidelines:** The Commissioner of Human Services in consultation with the Commissioner of Education shall prepare guidelines for the youth suicide prevention program. In addition to emphasizing the objectives provided in section 2 of this act, the guidelines shall foster cooperation between local boards of education and community mental health services providers.

**§ 30:9A-15. Proposals:** a. The commissioner shall solicit proposals for suicide prevention projects from community mental health services providers interested in participating in the program. The commissioner

shall review the project proposals and approve and fund, within the limits of monies appropriated for this purpose, three proposals which best meet the objectives of the program.

b. In addition to meeting the program objectives provided in section 2 of this act, a proposal shall include procedures for evaluating the project.

c. The commissioner shall fund one proposal from the northern, central and southern regions of the State in order to ensure that program services are available Statewide.

**§ 30:9A-16. Cooperation with school boards:** The community mental health services provider shall prepare its funding proposal in cooperation with two or more local boards of education which are interested in participating in the suicide prevention program. The provider also shall agree to provide information and training within the limits of available funds to other local boards of education that are interested in providing for suicide prevention programs, upon their request.

### *Reporting Suicide:*

**§ 30:9A-22. Findings, declarations relative to youth suicide:** ...e. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a program in this State to: collect information about youths who attempt suicide and improve the information available to both professionals, who are in contact with youth at risk of suicide, and families at risk; identify and provide suitable intervention services to reduce the incidence of suicide; and educate youths and families at risk about the resources available for suicide prevention and intervention.

**§ 30:9A-23. Definitions relative to youth suicide:** As used in this act:

"Alcohol and drug counselor" means a person who is a certified alcohol and drug counselor or a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 331 (C. 45:2D-1 et seq.).

"Attempted suicide" means destructive behavior intended by the actor to result in the actor's harm or death.

"Certified Domestic Violence Specialist" means a person who has fulfilled the requirements of certification as a Domestic Violence Specialist established by the New Jersey Association of Domestic Violence Professionals.

"Completed suicide" means a death that is known or reasonably suspected to have resulted from an intentional act of the deceased, regardless of whether it has been ruled a suicide by a medical examiner.

"Council" means the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established pursuant to this act.

"Division" means the Division of Mental Health Services in the Department of Human Services.

"Teaching staff member" means a member of the professional staff of any school district, regional board of education or the board of trustees of a charter school, or any board of education of a county vocational school, who holds an office, position or employment of such character that the qualifications for the office, position or employment require the member to hold a valid and effective standard, provisional or emergency certificate, appropriate to the member's office, position or employment, issued by the State Board of Examiners. Teaching staff member includes a school nurse and a school athletic trainer.

"Youth" means a person 24 years of age or younger.

**§ 30:9A-24. Report by teacher of attempted, completed suicide by student; other reporting requirements:**

- a. Any teaching staff member, who, as a result of information obtained in the course of the person's employment, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, shall promptly report such information to the division in a form and manner prescribed by the division.
- b. A nonpublic school is encouraged to require any member of its professional staff, who, as a result of information obtained in the course of the person's employment, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, to promptly report such information to the division in a form and manner prescribed by the division. As used in this subsection, "nonpublic school" means an elementary or secondary school within the State, other than a public school, offering education in grades K-12 or any combination thereof, at which a child may legally fulfill compulsory school attendance requirements.
- c. Any licensed psychologist, social worker, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, physician, physician assistant, alcohol and drug counselor, or registered nurse or licensed practical nurse licensed in this State pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, who, as a result of information obtained in the course of the person's employment, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a youth has attempted or completed suicide, shall promptly report such information to the division in a form and manner prescribed by the division.
- d. Any public health official, probation officer, employee of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part, Certified Domestic Violence Specialist, or member of a professional group identified by the council as having a likelihood to know about suicide attempts and deaths, who, as a result of information obtained in the course of the person's employment, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a youth has attempted or completed suicide, is encouraged to promptly report such information to the division in a form and manner prescribed by the division.
- e. The reporting form established by the division shall not require the reporter to identify the student or youth by name or other unique identifier, but may require that the reporter supply non-identifying demographic information about the student or youth, other attempts made by the student or youth and the response or referral made to deal with the incident.
- f. The reporting form shall be submitted to a designated employee of the division with responsibility for compiling data from the reports. Information contained in the reports shall not be considered a public record, but the division may aggregate the data for the purpose of preparing an annual report pursuant to section 6 of this act.
- g. The division shall offer to provide persons who are required or encouraged to report an attempted or completed suicide with current information about public and private assistance available to survivors and families of attempted and completed suicides and professionals who deal with suicide.

h. The reporting of an attempted or completed suicide pursuant to this section shall not replace or alter any other requirement of law or professional standard or obligation that requires a person to evaluate a death or report an attempted or completed suicide.

i. Any person who reports an attempted or completed suicide pursuant to this act shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability on account of that report, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

j. No provision of this act shall be deemed to require the disclosure of, or penalize the failure to disclose, any information which would be privileged pursuant to the provisions of sections 18 through 23, inclusive, of P.L. 1960, c. 52 (C. 2A:84A-18 through 2A:84A-23).

**§ 30:9A-25. New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council:** There is established in the Department of Children and Families the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. a. The purpose of the council shall be to: examine existing needs and services and make recommendations to the division for youth suicide reporting, prevention and intervention; advise the division on the content of informational materials to be made available to persons who report attempted or completed suicides; and advise the division in the development of regulations required pursuant to this act.

b. The council shall consist of 18 members as follows:

(1) the Commissioners of Human Services, Children and Families, Health and Senior Services, and Education...

(2) six public members appointed by the Governor, as follows: ... one person who is a current or retired primary or secondary school teacher, one person who is a current or former member of a local board of education...

(4) three public members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly...one of whom is a school-based counselor...

h. The Department of Children and Families shall provide staff support to the council.

**§ 30:9A-26. Public awareness campaign on youth suicide prevention and intervention:** The Commissioner of Human Services shall develop and publicize, in consultation with the council, a public awareness campaign on youth suicide prevention and intervention, the goals of which shall be to: a. increase voluntary reporting of youth suicides and attempts at suicide by professionals who are likely to know of suicides and attempts in the course of their employment; b. increase referrals by these professionals to therapeutic services available to youths who contemplate or attempt suicide; c. increase public awareness of the incidence and causes of youth suicide attempts and decrease the stigma currently associated with depression and suicide; and d. encourage the use by families of short-term and long-term public and private mental health services, as well as other services, to reduce the incidence of attempted and completed suicides by youths.

**§ 30:9A-27. Compilation of data, annual report:** a. The division shall compile data about reported attempted and completed suicides by youths in the State, without identifying any individuals involved. b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall issue a report annually to the council, the Governor and the



Legislature containing a summary of the data compiled by the division that includes aggregate demographic information about youths who attempt or complete suicide. The report shall include any recommendations for legislation or regulatory changes that would aid in the collection of more accurate data or the provision of more effective suicide prevention and intervention. c. The commissioner shall provide specific findings about youth suicides and attempts to the council, as soon as possible, to assist the council in fulfilling its responsibility under this act to make recommendations about youth suicide prevention and intervention.

**§ 30:9A-29. Statewide youth suicide prevention plan; development, adoption; youth suicide, self-injury:**

a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, and the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-25), shall develop and adopt a Statewide youth suicide prevention plan no later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

b. The plan shall address, but not be limited to, the: (1) identification of existing State and local sources of data concerning youth suicide deaths, youth suicide attempts, and self-inflicted injuries by youth; (2) coordination and sharing of such data among identified State and local sources; (3) promotion of greater public awareness about youth suicide prevention services and resources; (4) identification of barriers to accessing mental health and substance abuse services, and opportunities to enhance access; and (5) promotion of evidenced-based and best practice programs, listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices Registry, for the prevention and treatment of youth suicide and self-injury.

**§ 30:9A-30. Preparation of report, suicide prevention hotlines:** The Commissioners of Human Services and Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, shall prepare a report reviewing the effectiveness and sufficiency of services provided by the New Jersey-based suicide prevention hotlines. The report prepared pursuant to this section shall be transmitted to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months after the effective date of this act.

**§ 30:9A-32. Report to Governor, Legislature:** The commissioner, within 18 months after the effective date of this act, shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation of the provisions of this act, and shall include the youth suicide prevention plan developed pursuant to this act, and the commissioner's findings and actions taken to implement the provisions of section 3 [C.30:9A-31] of this act.

## New Mexico

(No statutes found)

## New York

### *School Personnel Training & Student Education:*

**§41.49. Adolescent suicide prevention program:** 1. Within amounts appropriated, the office of mental health is hereby authorized and directed to establish and conduct, in consultation with and upon the approval of the council on children and families, a special program, the purpose of which shall be to **provide grants to public or private not-for-profit organizations, or public or private schools**, acting alone or in

concert with others, **in order to educate the general population, and in particular parents, teachers, clergy, health and mental health professionals and adolescents themselves** of the positive actions that can be taken to identify and treat adolescents who are at high risk for suicide. For purposes of this section, the term "adolescent" shall mean any person under the age of twenty-one.

2. The commissioner shall in consultation with and upon the approval of the council on children and families promulgate standards to determine the eligibility of applicants for the grants herein authorized and be entitled to receive on appropriate forms such information as he deems necessary and relevant in making such determination. Such application to the extent possible shall include:

- a. the projected impact and effectiveness of the program in meeting the community's need for adolescent suicide prevention programs;
- b. coordination with other community and/or **school services**;
- c. other sources of revenue available;
- d. the start up and continuing operating costs of such program;
- e. the number and age of youth expected to be reached by such program;
- f. the range and type of services to be offered and the number and types of personnel to be employed;
- g. a description of an outreach component of the program;
- h. methods to be used to increase the sensitivity of professionals and the public toward identifying youth at risk of suicide; and
- i. such other information as deemed pertinent by the commissioner.

3. The commissioner in consultation with the council on children and families shall specify methods to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed projects...

4. Upon approval of each grant the commissioner shall contract with each grantee for a period of time not to exceed one year, but can extend such contract for one year periods when the commissioner after consulting the council on children and families determines it is appropriate.

5. Each grantee receiving payments hereunder shall submit to the commissioner within thirty days prior to the expiration of the contract a report following guidelines prepared by the commissioner...

6. The commissioner shall prepare a summary of the reports required by subdivision five of this section, and forward this summary to the council on children and families for inclusion in its annual report and shall include such information in the annual report of the office of mental health.

7. The commissioner in consultation with the council on children and families shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary and proper to implement the provision of this section.

## North Carolina

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally:** (60) To Ensure That the Unique Needs of Students With Immediate Family Members in the Military Are Met -- Local boards of education must collect and annually report to the State Board of Education the following information for each school in the local school administrative unit:

- a. The number of students who have an immediate family member who has served in the reserve or active components of the Armed Forces of the United States since September 1, 2011.
- b. Whether during the relevant period the local school administrative unit employed **at least one employee trained in the unique needs of children who have immediate family members in the military**. An employee satisfies this requirement if the employee has received **training** on all of the following:
  - a. The number of children of members of the active or reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States who live in the local school administrative unit.
  - b. Available curricula on military families.
  - c. The impact of deployments on the emotional and psychological well-being of the children and families.
  - d. **Potential warning signs of emotional and mental health disorders, substance use disorders, suicide risks**, child maltreatment, or domestic violence.
  - e. Appropriate resources to which students and their families may be referred as needed.
  - f. Scholarships for after-school and enrichment activities available through the United States Department of Defense, the National Guard, or the reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States for the children of parents who are actively deployed.
- c. The frequency with which the training is provided to school administrators, nurses, nurse aides, counselors, social workers, and other personnel in the local school administrative unit during the relevant period, and the number of staff trained.

### *School Study:*

**§ 120-70.81. Purpose and powers of [the Joint Legislative Education Oversight] Committee:** (a) The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall examine, on a continuing basis, the several educational institutions in North Carolina, in order to make ongoing recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to improve public education from kindergarten through higher education. In this examination, the Committee may:

1. Study the budgets, programs, and policies of the Department of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, the Community Colleges System Office, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, and the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina to determine ways in which the General Assembly may encourage the improvement of all education provided to North Carolinians and may aid in the development of more integrated methods of institutional accountability;
2. Examine, in particular, the Basic Education Plan and the School Improvement and Accountability Act of 1989, to determine whether changes need to be built into the plans, whether implementation schedules need to be restructured, and how to manage the ongoing development of the policies underlying these legislative plans, including a determination of whether there is a need for the legislature to develop ongoing funding patterns for these plans;
3. Study other states' educational initiatives in public schools, community colleges, and public universities, in order to provide an ongoing commentary to the General Assembly on these initiatives and to make recommendations for implementing similar initiatives in North Carolina; and
4. Study any other educational matters that the Committee considers necessary to fulfill its mandate.
5. **Study the needs of children and youth.** This study may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Developing strategies for addressing the issues of school dropout, **teen suicide**, and adolescent pregnancy.
- b. Identifying and evaluating the impact on children and youth of other economic and environmental issues.

(b) The Committee may make interim reports to the General Assembly on matters for which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the General Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the Committee.

## North Dakota

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§15.1-19-24. Youth suicide prevention – Training:** (1) Annually, each school district shall provide to middle school and high school instructional staff, teachers, and administrators, at least two hours of professional development relating to youth suicide risk indicators, appropriate staff responses, and referral sources. (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall collaborate with the state department of health to obtain and disseminate to school districts and nonpublic schools, free of charge, information and training materials, including those available through the Jason foundation.

## Ohio

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§3319.073. In-service training in child abuse prevention programs, school safety and violence prevention, and training on the boards harassment, intimidation, or bullying policy.**

...(D) Each board shall incorporate training in youth suicide awareness and prevention into the in-service training required by division (A) of this section for each person employed by a school district or service center to work in a school as a nurse, teacher, counselor, school psychologist, or administrator, and any other personnel that the board determines appropriate. For this purpose, the board shall adopt or adapt the curriculum developed by the department or shall develop its own curriculum in consultation with public or private agencies or persons involved in youth suicide awareness and prevention programs.

The training completed under this division shall count toward the satisfaction of requirements for professional development required by the school district or service center board, and the training may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials approved by the board.

### *Higher Education:*

**§3345.37 Policies regarding availability of suicide prevention programs.** (A) Not later than one year after the effective date of this section, each state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall develop and implement a policy to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus that includes all of the following: (1) Crisis intervention access, which shall include information for national, state, and local suicide prevention hotlines; (2) Mental health program access, which shall provide information on the availability of local mental health clinics, student health services, and counseling services; (3) Multimedia application access, which shall include crisis hotline contact information, suicide warning signs, resources offered, and free-of-cost applications; (4) Student communication plans, which shall consist of creating outreach plans regarding educational and outreach

activities on suicide prevention; (5) Postvention plans, which shall consist of creating a strategic plan to communicate effectively with students, staff, and parents after a loss of a person to suicide.

(B) Each state institution of higher education shall provide all incoming students with information about mental health topics, including depression and suicide prevention resources available to students. The information provided to students shall include available mental health services and other support services, including student-run organizations for individuals at risk of or affected by suicide.

(C) The information prescribed by divisions (A)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section shall be posted on the web site of each state institution of higher education. Any applicable free-of-cost prevention materials or programs shall be posted on the websites of the board of regents and the department of mental health and addiction services. The materials or programs shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the department of mental health and addiction services.

## Oklahoma

### *School Policy, School Personnel Training, Student Education, Reporting Risk:*

**Section 24-100.7 of Title 70:** A. The board of education of each school district in this state may adopt a policy regarding suicide awareness and training and the reporting of student drug abuse.

B. The board of education of each school district in this state may provide schoolwide training to all students in grades seven through twelve and staff addressing suicide awareness and prevention. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall develop and make available to school districts curriculum which addresses suicide awareness and prevention, without cost to the school districts. The course outline for the curriculum shall be made available to the public online through the school district website. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, every school district may:

1. Provide a suicide prevention training program which includes as a core element research-based approaches and that is developed by the school district;
2. Provide the curriculum made available by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; or
3. Provide a suicide prevention training program that is selected by the school district from a list maintained by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to students and school district staff that addresses suicide awareness and prevention. The training program may be combined with any other training provided by the school district addressing bullying prevention.

C. Teachers, counselors, principals, administrators and other school personnel shall be immune from employment discipline and any civil liability for:

1. Calling the 911 emergency telephone number, law enforcement or the Department of Human Services if they believe a student poses a threat to themselves or others or if a student has committed or been the victim of a violent act or threat of a violent act;
2. Providing referral, emergency medical care or other assistance offered in good faith to a student or other youth; or

3. Communicating information in good faith concerning drug or alcohol abuse or a potential safety threat by or to any student to the parents or legal guardians of the student, law enforcement officers or health care providers.

D. No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of this section or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section, unless the loss or damage was caused by willful or wanton misconduct.

E. The training required pursuant to this section, or the lack thereof, shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

F. School districts may enter into agreements with designated Youth Services Agencies for the provision of intervention and prevention services.

G. Teachers, counselors, principals, administrators, or other school personnel, upon determining that a student is at risk of attempting suicide, shall notify the parents or legal guardians of the student immediately upon determining that such risk exists.

**§ 12-104. Oklahoma Suicide Prevention Council—Responsibilities:** A. There is hereby created until January 1, 2020, an Oklahoma Suicide Prevention Council. The Council shall assist with the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Act.

B. The Oklahoma Suicide Prevention Council shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members as follows: ...5. **One representative of the State Department of Education appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; ... 10. One teacher and one school counselor each to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;**...

E. The responsibilities of the Council shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Collaborate with community partnership boards established pursuant to Section 601.11 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes and other community-level planning bodies to assist in the development and coordination of local resources and building community capacity to address the issue of minor and adult suicide;

2. **Provide technical assistance to schools** and communities with respect to the best practices in the identification and treatment of minors and adults at risk for suicide;

3. Identify systemic issues and promote strategies to prevent suicide among minors and adults; and

4. Promote public awareness of the problem of minor suicide and the efforts being made in Oklahoma to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with suicide.

F. The Council shall submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the State Commissioner of Health no later than December 1 of each year. The report shall provide an update of activities and progress in implementing the provisions of the Suicide Prevention Act, and offer policy and legislative recommendations.



## Oregon

(No statutes found)

## Pennsylvania

### *School Personnel Training, Student Education, & School Policy:*

**Public School Code, § 1526: Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention.** (a) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school entity shall:

- (1) Adopt an age-appropriate youth suicide awareness and prevention policy consistent with subsection (c), inform each school entity employee and the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the school entity of such policy and post such policy on the school entity's publicly accessible Internet website. The policy adopted by a school entity under this paragraph may be based upon the model policy developed by the department under subsection (b)(1).
- (2) Include in the professional development plan submitted by the school entity to the secretary for approval pursuant to section 1205.1 four (4) hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention every five (5) years for professional educators in school buildings serving students in grades six through twelve. Training under this paragraph may be used to satisfy a professional educator's continuing professional education requirement under section 1205.2. A school entity may use the materials made available by the department under subsection (b)(2) to conduct such training.

(b) The department shall:

- (1) In consultation with a youth suicide prevention organization operating in this Commonwealth, develop a model youth suicide awareness and prevention policy which shall be consistent with subsection (c).
- (2) Compile, develop and post on its publicly accessible Internet website the following, which may include materials already publicly available: (i) Recommended guidelines and educational materials for the training required under subsection (a)(2), and (ii) Recommended resources and age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide awareness and prevention.
- (3) Develop a model youth suicide awareness and prevention curriculum and make such curriculum available to all school entities and, upon request, to nonpublic schools. A school entity may incorporate such curriculum into its existing instructional program pursuant to the school entity's youth suicide awareness and prevention policy.

(c) The model policy developed by the department under subsection (b)(1) and any policy adopted by a school entity under subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

- (1) A statement on youth suicide awareness and prevention.
- (2) Protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff and students.
- (3) Methods of prevention, including procedures for early identification and referral of students at risk of suicide.

- (4) Methods of intervention, including procedures that address an emotional or mental health safety plan for students identified as being at increased risk of suicide.
- (5) Methods of responding to a student or staff suicide or suicide attempt.
- (6) Reporting procedures.
- (7) Recommended resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs, including current contact information for such programs.

(d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department." The Department of Education of the Commonwealth.

"Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school entity, wherein a resident of this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

"Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o).

"School entity." A school district, joint school district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

## Rhode Island

### *Student Education & Teacher Training:*

**§ 16-22-14. Suicide prevention awareness:** (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and prescribe a suicide prevention awareness program for public school students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12). The school committees of the several cities, towns, and school districts shall provide for the incorporation of the program in existing health education courses. (b) The board of regents for elementary and secondary education shall institute workshops to be developed and provided by the Samaritans, Inc. for those public school teachers designated to teach the suicide prevention awareness program.

## South Carolina

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§59-26-110. Youth suicide prevention teacher training:** (A) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the Department of Education shall require two hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention as a requirement for the renewal of credentials of individuals employed in a middle school or high school as defined in Section 59-1-150. The required training shall count toward the one hundred twenty renewal credits specified in Department of Education regulations for renewal of credentials.

(B)(1) The department shall develop guidelines suitable for training and materials that may be used by schools and districts; however districts may approve materials to be used in providing training for

employees. (2) The training required in this section may be accomplished through self-review of suicide prevention materials that meet guidelines developed by the Department of Education.

(C) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from any training, or lack of training, required by this section unless the loss or damage was caused by willful or wanton misconduct. The training, or lack of training, required by the provisions of this section must not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

## South Dakota

### *School Personnel Training:*

[SB 129](#), adopted 3/14/16: ENTITLED, An Act to establish certain suicide awareness and prevention training requirements for certain school employees based on the Jason Flatt Act. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That chapter 13-42 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read: The South Dakota Board of Education shall promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, to include a minimum of one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training as a requirement that an applicant must meet in order to be issued an initial certificate and a renewal certificate as a teacher, administrator, or other educational professional. The board shall, after consultation with suicide prevention or counseling experts, identify evidence-based resources that will fulfill the suicide awareness and prevention training requirement and shall make the list of the resources available to school districts. The training required may be accomplished through self-review of suicide prevention materials that meet the guidelines developed by the board. The requirement for suicide awareness and prevention training for initial certification or to renew a certificate begins after July 1, 2017.

Section 2. That chapter 13-42 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read: There is no cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of section 1 of this Act or resulting from any training, or lack of training, required by section 1 of this Act unless the loss or damage was caused by willful or wanton misconduct. The training, or lack of training, required by the provisions of this Act may not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

## Tennessee

### *School Personnel Training & School Policy:*

[§ 49-6-3004](#). **School term:** (a) Each public school system shall maintain a term of no less than two hundred (200) days, divided as follows: ...**(3) Five (5) days for in-service education;** (4) One (1) day for teacher-parent conferences; (5) Four (4) other days as designated by the local board of education upon the recommendation of the director of schools; ...

(c) (1) In-service days shall be used according to a plan recommended by the local director of schools in accordance with provisions of this section and other applicable statutes and adopted by the local board of education, a copy of which plan shall be filed with the commissioner of education on or before June 1 of the preceding school year and approved by the commissioner. The commissioner shall require that in-

service training include the teaching of the components of the Juvenile Offender Act, compiled in title 55, chapter 10, part 7, to all teachers and principals in grades seven through twelve (7-12). **The commissioner shall require that in-service training include at least two (2) hours of suicide prevention education for all teachers and principals each school year. This education may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.** The commissioner shall also encourage the use of two (2) of the in-service training days to provide training to teachers, principals and other school personnel, and, to the extent possible, school board members, on issues of prevention and intervention strategies for students in the area of **behavioral/emotional disorders**. The training shall place an emphasis on understanding the warning signs of early-onset mental illness in children and adolescents and may be conducted by school counseling personnel, such as psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors or health faculty, by mental health clinicians or by approved personnel from mental health advocacy organizations using curricula approved by the departments of education and mental health.

(2) The needs of apprentice teachers shall be given priority in the planning of in-service activities. Apprentice teachers shall be assisted by supervising teachers in the development of competencies required by the local board of education.

(3) The plan shall also give priority to staff development activities. Staff development activities shall include an assessment of teacher and administrator evaluations made previously by the local school system. Career level III teachers and career level III supervisors shall be assigned to aid those teachers seeking to improve teaching competencies.

(d) The state board of education shall develop a policy governing professional development activities during in-service education within the guidelines adopted by the general assembly...

**SB 1992 (Jason Flatt Act expansion), adopted 3/22/16 and effective 7/1/16:**

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding SECTIONS 2 through 4 as a new part.

SECTION 2. All employees of each LEA shall attend the annual in-service training in suicide prevention required to be provided to teachers and principals in accordance with § 49-6-3004(c)(1) or other equivalent training.

SECTION 3. (a) Each LEA shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. The policies shall be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts, and shall, at a minimum, address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. (b) To assist LEAs in developing policies for student suicide prevention, the department of education shall establish a model policy in consultation with the office of crisis services and suicide prevention of the department of mental health and substance abuse services and the department of health. An LEA may develop its own policy or adopt the model policy.

SECTION 4. (a) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of this part or resulting from any training, or lack thereof,

required by this part. (b) The training required by this part, or the lack thereof, shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

### *Student Screening:*

**§49-2-124. Universal mental health or socioemotional screening.** a) As used in this section: (1) "Mental health screening" or "socioemotional screening" means, for the purposes of this chapter, the use of one (1) or more brief, structured questionnaires designed to identify the possibility that an individual has a mental health problem; (3) "Universal mental health or socioemotional screening" means, for the purposes of this chapter, any mental health screening program in which a group of individuals is automatically screened without regard to whether there was a prior indication of a mental health problem.

(b) Universal mental health or socioemotional screening is only permitted under the following circumstances: (1) A parent, guardian, legal custodian or caregiver under the Power of Attorney for Care of a Minor Child Act, compiled in title 34, chapter 6, part 3, of a child under sixteen (16) years of age has provided written, active, informed and voluntarily signed consent that may be withdrawn at any time by the parent, guardian, legal custodian or caregiver under the Power of Attorney for Care of a Minor Child Act; (2) A court requires the mental health evaluation, examination or testing; (3) Emergency screening, evaluation, examination or testing of an individual under the Power of Attorney for Care of a Minor Child Act or screening done in connection with a disaster or epidemic; or (4) Screening required pursuant to the early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) program with active, written, informed, voluntarily signed consent as outlined in subdivision (b)(1) that may be withdrawn at any time by the parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver under the Power of Attorney for Care of a Minor Child Act who gave the consent...

(d) Written, informed, active, voluntary consent as outlined in subdivision (b)(1) that may be withdrawn at any time by the parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver under the Power of Attorney for Care of a Minor Child Act must also be obtained before proceeding with any psychiatric treatment recommendations resulting from any mental health screening, evaluation, testing or examination.

(e) **Subsections (b) and (c) shall not be construed to:** (1) Prevent an appropriate referral under the child find system required under 20 U.S.C. § 1412, with appropriate parental consent procedures as required under 20 U.S.C. § 1414(a)(1)(D)(i); (2) Prohibit an LEA employee from discussing any aspect of a child's behavior or academic progress with the child's parent or guardian or another appropriate school district employee, consistent with federal and state law, including the requirement of prior parental consent for the disclosure of any education records. Nothing in this subdivision (e)(2) shall be construed to modify or affect parental notification requirements for programs authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110; (3) Prohibit an LEA employee from referring a child to LEA personnel specified in subsection (c); **(4) Prohibit referrals, counseling or support in the event of an emergency or urgent situation to include, but not be limited to, the death, suicide, attempted suicide, murder, attempted murder, serious injury or serious illness of a student, teacher, staff, member of the administration, superintendent or any other school personnel or significant individual;**...

(g) The local board of education of each LEA shall adopt policies that may be reasonable and necessary to ensure implementation and enforcement of this section. The local board of education of each LEA shall report to the department of education by July 1, 2010, on the impact of this section.

## Texas

### *School Prevention Programs, School Personnel Training, Reporting Suicide Risk:*

**Education Code §21.451 Staff Development Requirements:** [As amended by *The Jason Flatt Act in memory of Jonathan Childers*, HB 2186, 2015; Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year] (d) The staff development [provided by a school district] ...(3) must include suicide prevention training that must be provided:

- (A) on an annual basis, as part of a new employee orientation, to all new school district and open-enrollment charter school educators; and
- (B) to existing school district and open-enrollment charter school educators on a schedule adopted by the agency by rule.

(d-1) The suicide prevention training required by Subsection (d)(3) must use a best practice-based program recommended by the Department of State Health Services in coordination with the agency under Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code.

(d-2) The suicide prevention training required by Subsection (d)(3) may be satisfied through independent review of suicide prevention training material that: (1) complies with the guidelines developed by the agency; and (2) is offered online.

**Education Code §21.044. Educator Preparation:** (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

(b) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as part of the curriculum for that degree, instruction in detection and education of students with dyslexia. This subsection does not apply to a person who obtains a certificate through an alternative certification program adopted under Section 21.049.

(c) The instruction under Subsection (b) must: (1) be developed by a panel of experts in the diagnosis and treatment of dyslexia who are: (A) employed by institutions of higher education; and (B) approved by the board; and (2) include information on: (A) characteristics of dyslexia; (B) identification of dyslexia; and (C) effective, multisensory strategies for teaching students with dyslexia.

(c-1) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as part of the training required to obtain that certificate, instruction regarding mental health, substance abuse, and youth suicide. The instruction required must:

- (1) be provided through a program selected from the list of recommended best practice-based programs established under §161.325, Health and Safety Code; and



- (2) include effective strategies for teaching and intervening with students with mental or emotional disorders, including de-escalation techniques and positive behavioral interventions and supports [in detection of students with mental or emotional disorders].

**Education Code §28.004. Local School Health Advisory Council and Health Education Instruction:** (a) The board of trustees of each school district shall establish a local school health advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction.

(b) A school district must consider the recommendations of the local school health advisory council before changing the district's health education curriculum or instruction.

(c) The local school health advisory council's duties include recommending:

- (1) the number of hours of instruction to be provided in health education;

- (2) policies, procedures, strategies, and curriculum appropriate for specific grade levels designed to prevent obesity, cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, **and mental health concerns** through coordination of:

- (A) health education;
- (B) physical education and physical activity;
- (C) nutrition services;
- (D) parental involvement; [and]
- (E) instruction to prevent the use of tobacco;
- (F) **school health services;**
- (G) **counseling and guidance services;**
- (H) **a safe and healthy school environment; and**
- (I) **school employee wellness;**

- (3) appropriate grade levels and methods of instruction for human sexuality instruction; and

- (4) strategies for integrating the curriculum components specified by Subdivision (2) with the following elements in a coordinated school health program for the district:

- (A) school health services;
- (B) counseling and guidance services;
- (C) a safe and healthy school environment; and
- (D) school employee wellness.

**Education Code §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making:** (a) Each school district shall have a district improvement plan that is developed, evaluated, and revised annually, in accordance with district policy, by the superintendent with the assistance of the district-level committee established under Section 11.251. The purpose of the district improvement plan is to guide district and campus staff in the improvement of student performance for all student groups in order to attain state standards in respect to the student achievement indicators adopted under Section 39.053. The district improvement plan must include provisions for:...(3) strategies for improvement of student performance that include:

- (A) instructional methods for addressing the needs of student groups not achieving their full potential;

(B) methods for addressing the needs of students for special programs, including: (i) **suicide prevention programs**, in accordance with Subchapter O-1, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, **which includes a parental or guardian notification procedure**; (ii) conflict resolution programs; (iii) violence prevention programs; and (iv) dyslexia treatment programs;...(F) staff development for professional staff of the district;...

**Health and Safety Code §161.325 Early Mental Health Intervention and Suicide Prevention:** (a) The department, in coordination with the Texas Education Agency, shall provide and annually update a list of recommended best practice-based early mental health intervention and suicide prevention programs for implementation in public elementary, junior high, middle, and high schools within the general education setting. Each school district may select from the list a program or programs appropriate for implementation in the district.

(b) **The programs on the list must include components that provide for training counselors, teachers, nurses, administrators, and other staff, as well as law enforcement officers and social workers who regularly interact with students, to:**

**(1) recognize students at risk of committing suicide, including students who are or may be the victims of or who engage in bullying;**

**(2) recognize students displaying early warning signs and a possible need for early mental health intervention, which warning signs may include declining academic performance, depression, anxiety, isolation, unexplained changes in sleep or eating habits, and destructive behavior toward self and others; and**

**(3) intervene effectively with students described by Subdivision (1) or (2) by providing notice and referral to a parent or guardian so appropriate action, such as seeking mental health services, may be taken by a parent or guardian.**

(c) In developing the list of programs, the department and the Texas Education Agency shall consider:

(1) any existing suicide prevention method developed by a school district; and

(2) any Internet or online course or program developed in this state or another state that is based on best practices recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

(c-1) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, **each school district shall provide training described in the components set forth under Subsection (b) for teachers, counselors, principals, and all other appropriate personnel.** A school district is required to provide the training at an elementary school campus only to the extent that sufficient funding and programs are available. A school district may implement a program on the list to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(c-2) If a school district provides the training under Subsection (c-1): (1) a school district employee described under that subsection **must participate in the training at least one time**; and (2) the school district shall maintain records that include the name of each district employee who participated in the training.

(d) The board of trustees of each school district may adopt a policy concerning early mental health intervention and suicide prevention that:

- (1) establishes a procedure for providing notice of a recommendation for early mental health intervention regarding a student to a parent or guardian of the student within a reasonable amount of time after the identification of early warning signs as described by Subsection (b)(2);
- (2) establishes a procedure for providing notice of a student identified as at risk of committing suicide to a parent or guardian of the student within a reasonable amount of time after the identification of early warning signs as described by Subsection (b)(2);
- (3) establishes that the district may develop a reporting mechanism and may designate at least one person to act as a liaison officer in the district for the purposes of identifying students in need of early mental health intervention or suicide prevention; and
- (4) sets out available counseling alternatives for a parent or guardian to consider when their child is identified as possibly being in need of early mental health intervention or suicide prevention.

(e) The policy must prohibit the use without the prior consent of a student's parent or guardian of a medical screening of the student as part of the process of identifying whether the student is possibly in need of early mental health intervention or suicide prevention.

(f) The policy and any necessary procedures adopted under Subsection (d) must be included in:

- (1) the annual student handbook; and
- (2) the district improvement plan under Section 11.252, Education Code.

(g) The department may accept donations for purposes of this section from sources without a conflict of interest. The department may not accept donations for purposes of this section from an anonymous source.

(h) *[Expires September 1, 2013]* Not later than January 1, 2013, the department shall submit a report to the legislature relating to the development of the list of programs and the implementation in school districts of selected programs by school districts that choose to implement programs. This subsection expires September 1, 2013.

(i) Nothing in this section is intended to interfere with the rights of parents or guardians and the decision-making regarding the best interest of the child. Policy and procedures adopted in accordance with this section are intended to notify a parent or guardian of a need for mental health intervention so that a parent or guardian may take appropriate action. Nothing in this section shall be construed as giving school districts the authority to prescribe medications. Any and all medical decisions are to be made by a parent or guardian of a student.

**Health & Safety Code §161.326. Immunity:** This subchapter does not: (1) waive any immunity from liability of a school district or of district school officers or employees; (2) create any liability for a cause of action against a school district or against district school officers or employees; or (3) waive any immunity from liability under Section 74.151, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

**Education Code §33.006 Counselors:** (a) The primary responsibility of a school counselor is to counsel students to fully develop each student's academic, career, personal, and social abilities. (b) In addition to a

school counselor's responsibility under Subsection (a), the counselor shall: (1) participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive developmental guidance program to serve all students and **to address the special needs of students: (A) who are at risk of dropping out of school, becoming substance abusers, participating in gang activity, or committing suicide;**... (2) consult with a student's parent or guardian and make referrals as appropriate in consultation with the student's parent or guardian; (3) consult with school staff, parents, and other community members to help them increase the effectiveness of student education and promote student success; (4) coordinate people and resources in the school, home, and community;...

**Health and Safety Code §533.040. Services for Children and Youth:** (a) The department shall ensure the development of programs and the expansion of services at the community level for children with mental illness or mental retardation, or both, and for their families... (c) The department shall designate an employee as a youth suicide prevention officer. The officer shall **serve as a liaison to the Texas Education Agency and public schools on matters relating to the prevention of and response to suicide or attempted suicide by public school students...**

### *Higher Education:*

**§ 51.9194. Required information for entering students regarding mental health and suicide prevention services.** (a) A general academic teaching institution shall provide to each entering full-time undergraduate, graduate, or professional student, including each full-time undergraduate, graduate, or professional student who transfers to the institution, information about:

- (1) available mental health and suicide prevention services offered by the institution or by any associated organizations or programs; and
- (2) early warning signs that are often present in and appropriate intervention for a person who may be considering suicide.

(b) The information required under this section: (1) may be provided through: (A) a live presentation; or (B) a format that allows for student interaction, such as an online program or video; and (2) may not be provided in a paper format only.

SECTION 2. Section 51.9194, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies to full-time entering students who are admitted to an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree program at a general academic teaching institution beginning with the 2016 fall semester.

## Utah

### *School Personnel Training:*

**§53A-1-603. Duties of State Board of Education.** (10) (a) School districts and charter schools shall require each licensed employee to complete two hours of professional development on youth suicide prevention within their license cycle in accordance with Section 53A-6-104.

(b) The State Board of Education shall develop or adopt sample materials to be used by a school district or charter school for professional development training on youth suicide prevention.

(c) The training required by this Subsection (10) shall be incorporated into professional development training required by rule in accordance with Section 53A-6-104.

### *School Programs:*

#### **§53A-15-1301. Youth suicide prevention programs required in secondary schools -- State Board of Education to develop model programs -- Reporting requirements:**

(1) As used in the section:

- (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.
- (b) "Intervention" means an effort to prevent a student from attempting suicide.
- (c) "Postvention" means mental health intervention after a suicide attempt or death to prevent or contain contagion.
- (d) "Program" means a youth suicide prevention program described in Subsection (2).
- (e) "Secondary grades": (i) means grades 7 through 12; and (ii) if a middle or junior high school includes grade 6, includes grade 6.
- (f) "State Office of Education suicide prevention coordinator" means a person designated by the board as described in Subsection (3).
- (g) "State suicide prevention coordinator" means the state suicide prevention coordinator described in Section 62A-15-1101.

(2) (a) In collaboration with the State Office of Education suicide prevention coordinator, a school district or charter school shall implement a youth suicide prevention program in the secondary grades of the school district or charter school. (b) A school district or charter school's program shall include the following components: (i) prevention of youth suicides; (ii) youth suicide intervention; and (iii) postvention for family, students, and faculty.

(3) The board shall: (a) designate a State Office of Education suicide prevention coordinator; and (b) in collaboration with the Department of Health and the state suicide prevention coordinator, develop model programs to provide to school districts and charter schools: (i) program training; and (ii) resources regarding the required components described in Subsection (2)(b).

(4) The State Office of Education suicide prevention coordinator shall: (a) oversee the youth suicide prevention programs of school districts and charter schools; and (b) coordinate prevention and postvention programs, services, and efforts with the state suicide prevention coordinator.

(5) A public school suicide prevention program may allow school personnel to ask a student questions related to youth suicide prevention, intervention, or postvention.

(6) (a) Subject to legislative appropriation, the board may distribute money to a school district or charter school to be used to implement evidence-based practices and programs, or emerging best practices and programs, for preventing suicide in the school district or charter school. (b) The board shall distribute money under Subsection (6)(a) so that each school that enrolls students in grade 7 or a higher grade receives an allocation of at least \$500, or a lesser amount per school if the legislative appropriation is not sufficient to provide at least \$500 per school. (c) (i) A school shall use money allocated to the school under Subsection (6)(b) to implement evidence-based practices and programs, or emerging best practices and programs, for

preventing suicide. (ii) Each school may select the evidence-based practices and programs, or emerging best practices and programs, for preventing suicide that the school implements.

(7) (a) The board shall report to the Legislature's Education Interim Committee, by the November 2014 meeting, jointly with the state suicide prevention coordinator, on: (i) the progress of school district and charter school programs; and (ii) the board's coordination efforts with the Department of Health and the state suicide prevention coordinator. (b) School districts and charter schools shall provide to the board information that is necessary for the board's report to the Legislature's Education Interim Committee as required in Subsection (7)(a).

**§53A-11-1503. School Safety and Crisis Line established.** The University Neuropsychiatric Institute shall:(1) establish a School Safety and Crisis Line to provide: (a) a means for an individual to anonymously report: (i) unsafe, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of such activities at or near a public school; (ii) incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, or hazing; and (iii) incidents of physical or sexual abuse committed by a school employee or school volunteer; and **(b) crisis intervention, including suicide prevention, to individuals experiencing emotional distress or psychiatric crisis;** (2) provide the services described in Subsection (1) 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and (3) when necessary, or as required by law, promptly forward a report received under Subsection (1)(a) to appropriate: (a) school officials; and (b) law enforcement officials.

**§53A-11-1504. School Safety and Crisis Line Commission established -- Members.**

(1) There is created the School Safety [Tip] and Crisis Line Commission [, within the Office of the Attorney General,] composed of the following members: (a) one member who represents the Office of the Attorney General, appointed by the attorney general; (b) [two members] one member who [represent] represents the Utah Public Education System, appointed by the State Board of Education; (c) one member who represents the Utah System of Higher Education, appointed by the State Board of Regents; [(c)] (d) one member who represents the Utah Department of Health, appointed by the executive director of the Department of Health; [(d) two members] (e) one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; [and] [(e) two members] (f) one member of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate[.]; (g) one member who represents the University Neuropsychiatric Institute, appointed by the chair of the commission; (h) one member who represents law enforcement who has extensive experience in emergency response, appointed by the chair of the commission; (i) one member who represents the Utah Department of Human Services who has experience in youth services or treatment services, appointed by the executive director of the Department of Human Services; and (j) two members of the public, appointed by the chair of the commission.

(2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), members of the commission shall be appointed to four-year terms. (b) The length of the terms of the members shall be staggered so that approximately half of the committee is appointed every two years. (c) When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the commission, the replacement shall be appointed for the unexpired term. [(2)] (3) (a) The attorney general's designee shall serve as chair of the commission. (b) The chair shall set the agenda for commission meetings.

[(3)] (4) Attendance of a simple majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of official commission business. [(4)] (5) Formal action by the commission requires a majority vote of a quorum.

[(5)] (6) (a) Except as provided in Subsection [(5)] (6)(b), a member may not receive compensation, benefits, per diem, or travel expenses for the member's service. (b) Compensation and expenses of a member who is



a legislator are governed by Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative Compensation and Expenses. [(6)] (7) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff support to the commission.

**§53A-11-1505. School Safety and Crisis Line Commission duties.**

[(1) (a)] The commission shall coordinate: [(i) designate a School Safety Tip Line provider network after consideration of the ability of the proposed provider network's ability to:][(A) provide the services described in Section 53A-11-1503 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and][(B) employ, as operators, social workers licensed by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing under Section 58-60-204;][(ii) estimate the cost of operating a School Safety Tip Line including the extent to which operations will be funded through private donations and grants; and][(iii) designate a phone number for the School Safety Tip Line.](1) statewide efforts related to the School Safety and Crisis Line; and (2) with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents to promote awareness of the services available through the School Safety and Crisis Line. [(b) The commission may conduct other business related to establishing a School Safety Tip Line.][(2) The commission shall report to the Education Interim Committee and the Executive Appropriations Committee before November 30, 2014, regarding:] [(a) how the commission fulfilled its duties during the year; and] [(b) recommendations for future legislation related to a School Safety Tip Line.]

**§53A-11-1506. State Board of Education and local boards of education to update policies and promote awareness.**

(1) The State Board of Education shall: (a) revise the conduct and discipline policy models, described in Section 53A-11-901, to include procedures for responding to reports received under Subsection 53A-11-1503(3); and (b) revise the curriculum developed by the State Board of Education for the parent seminar, described in Section 53A-15-1302, to include information about the School Safety and Crisis Line. (2) A local school board or charter school governing board shall: (a) revise the conduct and discipline policies, described in Section 53A-11-902, to include procedures for responding to reports received under Subsection 53A-11-1503(3); and (b) inform students, parents, and school personnel about the School Safety and Crisis Line.

***School Policy, Reporting Risk:***

**§53A-13-302. Activities prohibited without prior written consent – Validity of consent – Qualifications –**

**Training on implementation.** (7)(a) If a school employee, agent, or school resource officer believes a student is at-risk of attempting suicide, physical self-harm, or harming others, the school employee, agent, or school resource officer may intervene and ask a student questions regarding the student's suicidal thoughts, physically self-harming behavior, or thoughts of harming others for the purposes of (i) referring the student to appropriate prevention services; and (ii) informing the student's parent or legal guardian.

(b) On or before September 1, 2014, a school district or charter school shall develop and adopt a policy regarding intervention measures consistent with Subsection (7)(a) while requiring the minimum degree of intervention to accomplish the goals of this section.

(8) Local school boards and charter school governing boards shall provide inservice for teachers and administrators on the implementation of this section.

(9) The board shall provide procedures for disciplinary action for violations of this section.

**§53A-11a-203. Parental notification of certain incidents and threats required.** (1) For purposes of this section, "parent" includes a student's guardian.

(2) A school shall: (a) notify a parent if the parent's student threatens to commit suicide; or (b) notify the parents of each student involved in an incident of bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, hazing, or retaliation, of the incident involving each parent's student.

(3) (a) If a school notifies a parent of an incident or threat required to be reported under Subsection (2), the school shall produce and maintain a record that verifies that the parent was notified of the incident or threat. [(b) A school may not:] [(i) disclose a record described in Subsection (3)(a), including any information obtained to prepare the record, to a person other than a person authorized to receive the record described in Subsection (3)(c); or] [(ii) use a record described in Subsection (3)(a), including any information obtained to prepare the record, for the school's own purposes, including the following purposes:] [(A) for a report or study;] [(B) for a statistical analysis; or] [(C) to conduct research.] [(c) A school may disclose a record described in Subsection (3)(a), including any information obtained to prepare the record:] [(i) to the parent or the parent's student; or] [(ii) to a person if required to disclose the record or information to a person pursuant to the terms of a court order as described in Subsection 63G-2-202(7).] (b) A school shall maintain a record described in Subsection (3)(a) in accordance with the requirements of: (i) Section 53A-13-301; (ii) Section 53A-13-302; (iii) 20 U.S.C. 1232g, Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and (iv) C.F.R. Part 99.

(4) A local school board or charter school governing board shall adopt a policy regarding the process for: (a) notifying a parent as required in Subsection (2); and (b) producing and retaining a record that verifies that a parent was notified of an incident or threat as required in Subsection (3).

(5) At the request of a parent, a school may provide information and make recommendations related to an incident or threat described in Subsection (2).

(6) A school shall: (a) provide a student a copy of a record maintained in accordance with this section that relates to the student if the student requests a copy of the record; and (b) expunge a record maintained in accordance with this section that relates to a student if the student: (i) has graduated from high school; and (ii) requests the record be expunged.

### ***Parent Education:***

**§53A-15-1302. Parent education -- Mental health -- Bullying -- Safety.** (1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection [(5)] (4), a school district shall offer a seminar for parents of students in the school district that: (i) is offered at no cost to parents; (ii) begins at or after 6 p.m.; (iii) is held in at least one school located in the school district; and (iv) covers the topics described in Subsection (2). (b) A school district shall annually offer one parent seminar for each 11,000 students enrolled in the school district. (c) A school district may: (i) develop its own curriculum for the seminar described in Subsection (1)(a); or (ii) use the curriculum developed by the State Board of Education under Subsection (2). (d) A school district shall notify each charter school located in the attendance boundaries of the school district of the date and time of a parent seminar, so the charter school may inform parents of the seminar. (2) The State Board of Education shall: (a) develop a curriculum for the parent seminar described in Subsection (1) that includes information on: (i)

substance abuse, including illegal drugs and prescription drugs and prevention; (ii) bullying; (iii) **mental health, depression, suicide awareness, and suicide prevention, including education on limiting access to fatal means**; [and] (iv) Internet safety, including pornography addiction; and (v) the School Safety and Crisis Line established in Section 53A-11-1503; and (b) provide the curriculum, including resources and training, to school districts upon request.

## Vermont

### *Student Education:*

**16 V.S.A. §131. Definitions:** For the purposes of this subchapter, "comprehensive health education" means a systematic and extensive elementary and secondary educational program designed to provide a variety of learning experiences based upon knowledge of the human organism as it functions within its environment. The term includes the study of:

...(5) Family health and mental health, including instruction which promotes the development of responsible personal behavior involving decision making about sexual activity including abstinence; skills which strengthen existing family ties involving communication, cooperation, and interaction between parents and students; and instruction to aid in the establishment of strong family life in the future, thereby contributing to the enrichment of the community; **and which promotes an understanding of depression and the signs of suicide risk in a family member or fellow student that includes how to respond appropriately and seek help and provides an awareness of the available school and community resources such as the local suicide crisis hotline;**...

## Virginia

### *Reporting Suicide Risk:*

**§22.1-272.1 Responsibility to contact parent of student at imminent risk of suicide; notice to be given to social services if parental abuse or neglect; Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Health, to develop guidelines for parental contact:** A. Any person licensed as administrative or instructional personnel by the Board of Education and employed by a local school board who, in the scope of his employment, has reason to believe, as a result of direct communication from a student, that such student is at imminent risk of suicide, shall, as soon as practicable, contact at least one of such student's parents to ask whether such parent is aware of the student's mental state and whether the parent wishes to obtain or has already obtained counseling for such student. Such contact shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines required by subsection C.

B. If the student has indicated that the reason for being at imminent risk of suicide relates to parental abuse or neglect, this contact shall not be made with the parent. Instead, the person shall, as soon as practicable, notify the local department of social services of the county or city wherein the child resides or wherein the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred or the state Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline, as required by §63.2-1509. When giving this notice to the local or state department, the person shall stress the need to take immediate action to protect the child from harm.

C. The Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Health, shall develop guidelines for making the contact required by subsection A. These guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, (i) criteria to assess the suicide risks of students, (ii) characteristics to identify potentially suicidal students, (iii) appropriate responses to students expressing suicidal intentions, (iv) available and appropriate community services for students expressing suicidal intentions, (v) suicide prevention strategies which may be implemented by local schools for students expressing suicidal intentions, (vi) criteria for notification of and discussions with parents of students expressing suicidal intentions, (vii) criteria for as-soon-as-practicable contact with the parents, (viii) appropriate sensitivity to religious beliefs, and (ix) legal requirements and criteria for notification of public service agencies, including, but not limited to, the local or state social services and mental health agencies. These guidelines may include case studies and problem-solving exercises and may be designed as materials for in-service training programs for licensed administrative and instructional personnel.

[Those guidelines are available here:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/guidance/health/suicide\\_prevention.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/guidance/health/suicide_prevention.pdf)]

### *Higher Education:*

**SB 1430 (2017):** Requires baccalaureate public institutions of higher education to develop and implement policies that ensure that after a student suicide, affected students have access to reasonable medical and behavioral health services, including postvention services. The bill defines postvention services as services designed to facilitate the grieving or adjustment process, stabilize the environment, reduce the risk of negative behaviors, and prevent suicide contagion..

### *Youth Suicide Prevention Programs:*

**§ 32.1-73.7. Department to be lead agency for youth suicide prevention:** With such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose, the Department [of Health], **in consultation with the Department of Education**, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, community services boards and behavioral health authorities, and local departments of health, shall have the lead responsibility for the youth suicide prevention program within the Commonwealth. This responsibility includes coordination of the activities of the agencies of the Commonwealth pertaining to youth suicide prevention in order to develop and carry out comprehensive youth suicide prevention strategies addressing public awareness, the promotion of health development, early identification, intervention and treatment, and support to survivors. The strategies shall be targeted to the specific needs of children and adolescents. The Department shall cooperate with federal, state and local agencies, private and public agencies, survivor groups and other interested persons in order to prevent youth suicide within the Commonwealth.

## Washington

### *School Personnel Training & School Plans:*

**RCW 28A.410.226.** Washington professional educator standards board – Training on youth suicide screening – Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors – Adoption of standards:

- (1) As provided under subsections (2) and (3) of this section, individuals certified by the professional educator standards board as a school nurse, school social worker, school psychologist, or school counselor must

complete a training program on youth suicide screening and referral as a condition of certification. The training program must be at least three hours in length. The professional educator standards board must adopt standards for the minimum content of the training in consultation with the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department of health. In developing the standards, the board must consider training programs listed on the best practices registry of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

- (2) This section applies to the following certificates if the certificate is first issued or is renewed on or after July 1, 2015: (a) Continuing certificates for school nurses; (b) Continuing certificates for school social workers; (c) Continuing and professional certificates for school psychologists; and (d) Continuing and professional certificates for school counselors.
- (3) A school counselor who holds or submits a school counseling certificate from the national board for professional teaching standards or a school psychologist who holds or submits a school psychologist certificate from the national association of school psychologists in lieu of a professional certificate must complete the training program under subsection (1) of this section by July 1, 2015, or within the five-year period before the certificate is first submitted to the professional educator standards board, whichever is later, and at least once every five years thereafter in order to be considered certified by the professional educator standards board.
- (4) The professional educator standards board shall consider the training program under subsection (1) of this section as approved continuing education under RCW 28A.415.020 and shall count the training program toward meeting continuing education requirements for certification as a school nurse, school social worker, school psychologist, or school counselor.

**RCW 28A.410.035. Qualifications – Coursework on issues of abuse; sexual abuse and exploitation of a minor; and emotional or behavioral distress in students, including possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide:** ... (2) The professional educator standards board shall incorporate into the content required for the course under this section, knowledge and skill standards pertaining to recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide. To receive initial certification after August 31, 2014, an applicant must have successfully completed a course that includes the content of this subsection. The board shall consult with the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department of health in developing the standards.

**RCW 28A.320.127. Plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students:**

- (1) Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, each school district must adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide. The school district must annually provide the plan to all district staff.
- (2) At a minimum the plan must address:
  - a. Identification of training opportunities in recognition, screening, and referral that may be available for staff;
  - b. How to use the expertise of district staff who have been trained in recognition, screening, and referral;

- c. How staff should respond to suspicions, concerns, or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students;
  - d. Identification and development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental health, substance abuse, and social support services, including development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the district and such an entity in the community or region;
  - e. Protocols and procedures for communication with parents;
  - f. How staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others; and
  - g. How the district will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence or youth suicide.
- (3) The plan under this section may be as separate plan or a component of another district plan or policy, such as the harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention policy under RCW 28A.300.2851 or the comprehensive safe school plan required under RCW 28A.320.125.

**RCW 28A.320.1271. Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students:** The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the school safety advisory committee shall develop a model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide. The model plan must incorporate research-based best practices, including practices and protocols used in school and school districts in other states. The model plan must be posted by February 1, 2014, on the school safety center web site, along with relevant resources and information to support school districts in developing and implementing the plan required under section 4 of this act.

**RCW 28A.310.500. Youth suicide screening and referral – Response to emotional or behavioral distress in students – Training for educators and staff:**

Each educational service district shall develop and maintain the capacity to offer training for educators and other school district staff on youth suicide screening and referral, and on recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide. An educational service district may demonstrate capacity by employing staff with sufficient expertise to offer the training or by contracting with individuals or organizations to offer the training. Training may be offered on a fee-for-service basis, or at no cost to school districts or educators if funds are appropriated specifically for this purpose or made available through grants or other sources.

**RCW 43.20A.765. Mental health first aid training for teachers and educational staff:** Subject to appropriation for this specific purpose, the department shall provide funds for mental health first-aid training targeted at teachers and educational staff. The training will follow the model developed by the department of psychology in Melbourne, Australia. Instruction provided will describe common mental disorders that arise in youth, their possible cause and risk factors, the availability of evidence-based medical, psychological, and alternative treatments, processes for making referrals for behavioral health services, and methods to effectively render assistance in both initial intervention and crisis situations. The department shall collaborate with the office of the superintendent of public instruction to identify sites and methods of instruction that leverage local resources to the extent possible for the purpose of making the mental health first-aid training broadly available.



**RCW 28A.310.501**. **Civil liability – 2013 c 197**. This act does not create any civil liability on the part of the state or any state agency, officer, employee, agent, political subdivision, or school district.

***Student Education & School Prevention Programs:***

**RCW 28A.230.095**. **Essential academic learning requirements and assessments – Verification reports:** (1) By the end of the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall have in place in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools assessments or other strategies chosen by the district to assure that students have an opportunity to learn the essential academic learning requirements in social studies, the arts, and health and fitness...**Health and fitness includes, but is not limited to, mental health and suicide prevention education.** Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall annually submit an implementation verification report to the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The office of the superintendent of public instruction may not require school districts to use a classroom-based assessment in social studies, the arts, and health and fitness to meet the requirements of this section and shall clearly communicate to districts their option to use other strategies chosen by the district...

**RCW 28A.300.288. Youth suicide prevention – Pilot projects to implement activities:** The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall work with state agency and community partners to develop pilot projects to assist schools in implementing youth suicide prevention activities.

**RCW 28A.300.2851. School bullying and harassment -- Work group:** (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the office of the education ombudsman shall convene a work group on school bullying and harassment prevention to develop, recommend, and implement strategies to improve school climate and create respectful learning environments in all public schools in Washington. The superintendent of public instruction or a designee shall serve as the chair of the work group.

(2) The work group shall:

- (a) Consider whether additional disaggregated data should be collected regarding incidents of bullying and harassment or disciplinary actions and make recommendations to the office of the superintendent of public instruction for collection of such data;
- (b) Examine possible procedures for anonymous reporting of incidents of bullying and harassment;
- (c) Identify curriculum and best practices for school districts to improve school climate, create respectful learning environments, and train staff and students in de-escalation and intervention techniques;
- (d) Identify curriculum and best practices for incorporating instruction about mental health, youth suicide prevention, and prevention of bullying and harassment;**
- (e) Recommend best practices for informing parents about the harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention policy and procedure under RCW 28A.300.285 and involving parents in improving school climate;
- (f) Recommend training for district personnel** who are designated as the primary contact regarding the policy and procedure and for school resource officers and other school security personnel;

- (g) **Recommend educator preparation and certification requirements** in harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention and de-escalation and intervention techniques for teachers, educational staff associates, and school administrators;
  - (h) Examine and recommend policies for discipline of students and staff who harass, intimidate, or bully; and
  - (i) In collaboration with the state board for community and technical colleges, examine and recommend policies to protect K-12 students attending community and technical colleges from harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
- (3) The work group must include representatives from the state board of education, the Washington state parent teacher association, the Washington state association of school psychologists, school directors, school administrators, principals, teachers, school counselors, classified school staff, youth, community organizations, and parents.
- (4) The work group shall submit a biennial progress and status report to the governor and the education committees of the legislature, beginning December 1, 2011, with additional reports by December 1, 2013, and December 1, 2015.
- (5) The work group is terminated effective January 1, 2016.

#### *Higher Education:*

**SHB 1138 (Chapter 67, Laws of 2015)** (1) The legislature finds that:

- (a) According to Mental Health America's Parity or Disparity: The State of Mental Health in America 2015 Report, Washington ranks fourth in states with the highest prevalence of mental illness and lowest access to care. The report finds that, in Washington, both adults and youth have worse mental health outcomes than residents of other states. The report shows that Washington ranks third in states with the highest prevalence of behavioral concerns. The report estimates that there are over one million adults with mental illness in Washington, and almost one quarter of a million adults with serious thoughts of suicide.
- (b) According to the national college health assessment survey, sponsored by the American college health association, almost ten percent of college students reported that they had seriously considered attempting suicide and 1.5 percent of students reported that they had attempted suicide within the last school year. There are approximately four hundred thousand students attending Washington's two-year and four-year public and private institutions of higher education, so based on national averages, about forty thousand Washington students have suicidal ideation, and about six thousand have attempted suicide in the past year.
- (c) According to the state department of health: (i) Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Washington youth between the ages of ten and twenty-four. Suicide rates among Washington youth remain higher than the national average; (ii) In 2012 and 2013, over two hundred youth between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four died by suicide. Those same years, over one thousand youth ages eighteen to twenty-four required hospitalization due to a self-inflicted nonfatal injury; and (iii) For each youth between the ages of ten and twenty-four who dies by suicide, the average cost is nearly two

million dollars in future work loss and five thousand dollars in medical costs. The estimated cost for each nonfatal suicide attempt that results in work loss costs.

(d) According to the national center for veterans studies at the University of Utah, veterans face an elevated risk of suicide as compared to the general population; nearly half of college students who are United States military veterans have had thoughts of suicide. Nearly eight percent of veteran college students reported a suicide attempt compared to a little over one percent of other college students.

(2) Therefore, the legislature intends to convene a task force on mental health and suicide prevention in higher education to determine what policies, resources, and technical assistance may be needed to support the institutions of higher education in improving access to mental health services and improving suicide prevention responses.

SECTION 2 (1) Forefront at the University of Washington shall convene a task force on mental health and suicide prevention at Washington's public and private institutions of higher education to determine what policies, resources, and technical assistance are needed to support the institutions in improving access to mental health services and improving suicide prevention responses.

(2) Membership of the mental health and suicide prevention in higher education task force shall be as provided in this subsection.

(a) The following agencies and organizations shall each appoint one member to the task force: The student achievement council, the council of presidents, the state board for community and technical colleges, the independent colleges of Washington, the workforce training and education coordinating board, the northwest career colleges federation, the Washington department of veterans affairs, the Washington department of social and health services, and the Washington department of health; and

(b) Forefront at the University of Washington shall invite campus counselors and mental health experts; experts on suicide assessment, treatment and management; mental health and suicide prevention advocates; veterans center staff; experts on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, and ethnic and minority affairs experts; campus administrators; and students to be members of the task force. The invitees must represent the various demographics and geographies of the state.

(c) The task force may form subgroups of members that research, discuss, and make recommendations on one or more topics in furtherance of the overall goals of the task force.

(3) The task force shall choose its cochair from among its membership. Forefront at the University of Washington shall convene the initial meeting of the task force and the cochair shall convene subsequent meetings.

(4) Staff support for the task force must be provided by Forefront at the University of Washington.

(5) The task force, in cooperation with the state's public and private institutions of higher education, shall collect data related to mental health services, suicide prevention and response, and deaths by suicide at the public and private institutions of higher education in Washington, to the extent that data is available. This data may include:

- (a) Protocols for responding to students in distress that cover intervention, treatment, reentry, and post-crisis intervention;
- (b) Data on on-campus use of student behavioral health services over the past five years;
- (c) Data on available funding for on-campus student behavioral health services over the past five years;
- (d) Data on the number of mental health professionals and chemical dependency professionals working on campus and the number of students on campus over the past five years;
- (e) Data on student suicide attempts and deaths over the past five years;
- (f) Information on courses or seminars focusing on early identification of mental health issues, providing early access to mental health services, and intervention offered at the campus over the past five years;
- (g) Information on student groups raising awareness about suicide prevention and behavioral health promotion;
- (h) Information on efforts to screen students for behavioral health disorders and suicidal ideation; (i) Information on efforts to reduce access to lethal means, such as locking dorm balconies or prescription medication drop-off campaigns
- (j) Information on the relationship between emotional distress student withdrawal; and
- (k) Information on the availability of online behavioral health resources on institution web sites.

(6) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose, the expenses of the task force must be paid by the University of Washington.

(7) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 1, 2016. The report must include: (a) A summary of the data reviewed by the task force; (b) Best practices and policies for providing mental health services and preventing suicide at institutions of higher education; (c) Recommendations on resources and technical assistance required to increase awareness of behavioral health needs on campus and support institutions of higher education in preventing suicide on campus.

## West Virginia

### *Student Education:*

**§18-2-40. Suicide prevention awareness training; dissemination of information.** (a) This section, section seven, article one-b, chapter eighteen-b of this code and section one, article six, chapter twenty-seven of this code shall be known as “**Jamie’s Law**.” (b) On or before September 1, 2015 and each year thereafter, a public middle and high school administrator shall disseminate and provide opportunities to discuss suicide prevention awareness information to all middle and high school students. The information may be obtained from the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program approved by the State Board of Education in consultation with the bureau to assure the accuracy and appropriateness of the information.

**§27-6-1. Dissemination of information.** (a) The Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities shall, on or before August 1, 2015, post on its website suicide prevention awareness information, to include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The website shall include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities offered by the bureau or an agency recognized by the bureau as a training provider. (b) The bureau may assist the public middle and high school administrators in providing suicide prevention information

to students in the public middle and high schools. (c) The bureau shall annually review, for adequacy and completeness, the materials or programs posted on the websites of the institutions of higher education as required by section seven, article one-b, chapter eighteen-b of this code.

### ***Higher Education:***

**§18B-1B-7. Student mental health policies; suicide prevention.** (a) Each public and private institution of higher education shall develop and implement a policy to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus that includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Crisis intervention access, which includes information for national, state and local suicide prevention hotlines;
- (2) Mental health program access, which provides information on the availability of local mental health clinics, student health services and counseling services;
- (3) Multimedia application access, which includes crisis hotline contact information, suicide warning signs, resources offered and free-of-cost applications;
- (4) Student communication plans, which consist of creating outreach plans regarding educational and outreach activities on suicide prevention; and
- (5) Post intervention plans which include creating a strategic plan to communicate effectively with students, staff and parents after the loss of a student to suicide.

(b) Each public and private institution of higher education shall provide all incoming students with information about depression and suicide prevention resources available to students. The information provided to students shall include available mental health services and other support services, including student-run organizations for individuals at risk of or affected by suicide.

(c) The information prescribed by subsection (a), subdivisions (1) through (4) of this section shall be posted on the website of each institution of higher education in this state.

(d) Any applicable free-of-cost prevention materials or programs shall be posted on the websites of the public and private institutions of higher education, the Higher Education Policy Commission, and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

### ***School Personnel Training:***

**§18A-3A-2. Professional development project:** Subject to the provisions of section twenty-three-a [§ 18-2-23a], article two, chapter eighteen of this code, through this project the Center for Professional Development shall: ... (5) Provide for the routine education of all professional educators, including principals and administrators, and those service personnel having direct contact with students on warning signs and resources to assist in suicide prevention under guidelines established by the State Board. The education may be accomplished through self review of suicide prevention materials and resources approved by the State Board. The provisions of this paragraph may be known and cited as the "Jason Flatt Act of 2012";...

## Wisconsin

### *School Personnel Training and School Prevention Programs:*

**§115.365. Assistance to schools for suicide prevention programs:** (1) The purpose of this section is to enable and encourage public, private, and tribal schools to develop programs designed to prevent suicide among minors.

(2) The department, in conjunction with the department of health services and the department of children and families, shall:

(a) **Develop and conduct training programs in suicide prevention for the professional staff of public, private, and tribal schools and county departments** under ss. 46.215, 46.22, and 51.42 The programs shall include information on how to assist minors in the positive emotional development which will help prevent suicidal tendencies; the detection, by minors, school staff, and parents, of conditions which indicate suicidal tendencies; the proper action to take when there is reason to believe that a minor has suicidal tendencies or is contemplating suicide; and the coordination of school suicide prevention programs and activities with the suicide prevention and intervention programs and activities of other state and local agencies. Persons other than the professional staff of public, private, and tribal schools and county departments under ss. 46.215, 46.22, and 51.42 may attend the training programs. The department may charge such persons a fee sufficient to cover the increased costs to the department of their participation in the programs.

(b) **Provide consultation and technical assistance to public, private, and tribal schools for the development and implementation of suicide prevention programs** and the coordination of those programs with the suicide prevention and intervention programs of other state and local agencies.

(3) Each school board and the governing body of each private school annually shall inform their professional staff of the resources available from the department and other sources regarding suicide prevention. The department annually shall provide school boards and the governing bodies of private and tribal schools with a model notice, describing the suicide prevention services that it has developed and how staff may access those services, that school boards and governing bodies of private and tribal schools may use to inform their professional staff.

**§118.295. Suicide intervention; civil liability exemption:** Any school board, private school, tribal school, county children with disabilities education board, or cooperative educational service agency, and any officer, employee, or volunteer thereof, who in good faith attempts to prevent suicide by a pupil is immune from civil liability for his or her acts or omissions in respect to the suicide or attempted suicide. The civil liability immunity provided in this section is in addition to and not in lieu of that provided under s. 895.48 (1)

### *Student Education:*

**§118.01. Educational goals and expectations:** (1) **PURPOSE.** Public education is a fundamental responsibility of the state. The constitution vests in the state superintendent the supervision of public instruction and directs the legislature to provide for the establishment of district schools. The effective operation of the public schools is dependent upon a common understanding of what public schools should be and do. Establishing such goals and expectations is a necessary and proper complement to the states financial contribution to education. Each school board should provide curriculum, course requirements and instruction consistent with the goals and expectations established under sub. (2) Parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the school district share with the state and school board the responsibility for pupils meeting the goals and expectations under sub. (2)



(2) EDUCATIONAL GOALS...(d) Personal development. Each school board shall provide an instructional program designed to give pupils: ...7. The skills needed to make sound decisions, **knowledge of the conditions which may cause and the signs of suicidal tendencies, knowledge of the relationship between youth suicide and the use of alcohol and controlled substances under ch. 961 and knowledge of the available community youth suicide prevention and intervention services.** Instruction shall be designed to help prevent suicides by pupils by promoting the positive emotional development of pupils.

## Wyoming

### *School Personnel Training*

**§21-3-110. Duties of boards of trustees.** (a) The board of trustees of each school district shall: (xxxiii) Commencing with school year 2014-2015 and each school year thereafter, with funds made available to the district under the Wyoming education resource block grant model as defined under W.S. 21-13-101(a)(xiv), require each teacher and school administrator within the district to receive at least eight (8) hours of suicide prevention education every four (4) school years using suitable materials reviewed and recommended by the director of the department under W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxv). Any teacher or school administrator shall receive at least two (2) hours of suicide prevention education during the initial school year of employment with the district if the teacher or school administrator has not received suicide prevention training complying with this paragraph prior to employment. Suicide prevention education may consist of self-review of approved suitable materials. The board shall make all suicide prevention education materials and classes available to interested community members.

**§21-2-202. Duties of the state superintendent.** (a) In addition to any other duties assigned by law, the state superintendent shall: (xxxv) Review and make available suitable materials for suicide prevention education as required for school district teachers and school administrators under W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxxiii).