



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

FREE SCHOOL-BASED SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

NEW AND IMPROVED!

Did you know that Wisconsin has the 8th highest youth suicide rate of any state, and that almost 1 in 5 high school students has seriously considered suicide? Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for WI youth, behind accidents. DPI is offering free, newly updated workshops to help schools improve suicide prevention efforts and **meet the requirements of state law**. The training can be provided in your area, there is no cost, and includes school-tested, comprehensive, **evidence-based prevention and curriculum materials!**

We have recently re-tooled—adding new prevention programs, a middle-school health class curriculum, and additional resources. We invite you to come ready to learn!

This workshop helps participants understand the scope of youth suicide and what schools can do to reduce suicidal acts and thoughts among students. Participants learn about the prevalence of youth suicide, risk and protective factors, comprehensive prevention programs, and crisis intervention. **State law also requires school districts to provide specific classroom instruction in youth suicide prevention.** We discuss the state requirements, and help you gain new knowledge and skills to improve classroom instruction at the middle- and high-school level. You will participate in authentic, performance-based assessments—strategies to help students understand suicide and demonstrate their knowledge. We share a variety of effective and inexpensive classroom programs.

This workshop is not intended to train all school staff, but prepares pupil services staff, health educators, and administrators to plan, prevent, and intervene in their schools. Action planning is integrated into all phases of the training program. A CD-ROM with complete program materials and a model workshop for all school staff is provided.

Anyone can schedule and sponsor this one-day workshop. Simply decide what date(s) you have available for the training and contact John Humphries, DPI School Psychologist, at (608) 266-7189. Trainers are DPI staff. Reservations should be made early, because trainer availability is limited. Groups must be at least 25 people, with larger groups encouraged.

Local sponsors are responsible for recruiting participants, reservations, training site logistics, meals, refreshments, and a VCR, an LCD projector, screen, and wireless lapel microphone. Handouts and other materials are provided by DPI. Local sponsors may charge a nominal fee adequate to cover their expenses (meals, promotion, etc.), but this is not intended to be a for-profit event. Scholarships are encouraged.

<i>Requirements from WI Statute 118.01 (2) (a) (7): Suicide Prevention Education</i>	<i>DPI Curriculum</i>	<i>SOS High School</i>	<i>SOS Middle School</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the skills needed to make sound decisions 	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge of the conditions which may cause and the signs of suicidal tendencies 	√	√	√
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge of the relationship between youth suicide and the use of alcohol and controlled substances 	√	√	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge of the available community youth suicide prevention and intervention services 	√		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> instruction shall be designed to help prevent suicides by pupils by promoting the positive emotional development of pupils 	√		

Schools implementing only the SOS High School or Middle School Program do not meet all the curriculum requirements of state law. DPI's curriculum was specifically designed to do so.

<i>Requirements from WI Statute 115.365: Assistance to schools for suicide prevention programs</i>	<i>DPI Training Provides:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable and encourage schools to develop programs designed to prevent suicide 	A comprehensive 3-tiered prevention model of evidence-based programs with a strong action planning component
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to assist minors in positive emotional development which will help prevent suicidal tendencies 	Programs to develop problem-solving, social, and strong academic skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the detection, by minors, school staff and parents, of conditions which indicate suicidal tendencies 	A discussion of screening procedures to use at each of the 3 levels of prevention and intervention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proper action to take when there is reason to believe that a minor is suicidal or is contemplating suicide 	A comprehensive discussion and action planning for crisis response specifically geared to suicide prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the coordination of school suicide prevention programs and activities with state and local agencies 	Information about state and local resources

<i>Requirements from Title IV Part A (4): Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act</i>	<i>DPI Training Provides:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevention activities that are designed to create and maintain safe, disciplined, and drug-free environments 	A comprehensive 3-tiered prevention model of evidence-based programs with a strong action planning component
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a crisis management plan for responding to violent or traumatic incidents on school grounds 	A comprehensive discussion and action planning for crisis response specifically geared to suicide prevention