

**MEMORANDUM**

To: School Superintendents and Principals

From: Cathy Danyluk, Director of Student Services

Date: June 1, 2017

Re: House Enrolled Act 1430 – Suicide Awareness and Prevention (IC 20-26-5-34.4; IC 20-28-3-6)

**Background:**

The Indiana General Assembly recently passed legislation requiring all school corporations to adopt a policy intended to increase child suicide awareness and prevention. The statute sets forth specific items that must be addressed in this policy. The law is effective July 1, 2017; however schools likely will be unable to adopt a policy by this date. Therefore, schools should adopt a policy as close to the beginning of the 2017-18 school year as practical.

In the coming weeks the department will post additional information to assist schools in adopting a policy, so check <http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/suicide-prevention-and-response> for more information.

Additionally, beginning after June 30, 2018, each school corporation, charter school, and accredited nonpublic school shall require all teachers (as defined in IC 20-18-2-22) and other appropriate school employees in schools with grades 5-12 to attend or participate in at least two hours of evidence-based in-service youth suicide awareness and prevention training every three school years. The statute also sets forth specific training requirements.

**Guidance:****Suicide Prevention Policy:**

Per IC 20-26-5-34.4, the required school corporation 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.

*Schools should adopt a policy as close to the beginning of the 2017-18 school year as practical.*

### **Evidence-based Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training:**

Per IC 20-28-3-6, the training:

- beginning after June 30, 2018, is required for all teachers, including a Superintendent licensed under IC 20-28-5; principal; teacher; librarian; school counselor; school psychologist; school nurse; school social worker; and also may include any other appropriate school employees; who are employed at schools that provide instruction in any combination of grades 5-12;
- must be during the teacher's or school employee's contracted day or at a time chosen by the teacher or employee;
- may include an in-person presentation; electronic or technology-based medium, including self-review modules available on an online system; an individual program of study of designated materials; or any other method approved by the governing body that is consistent with current professional development standards;
- shall count toward the requirements for professional development required by the governing body; and
- 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.

A school or school corporation may leverage any existing or new state and federal grant funds or 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.

Additional resources, including potential funding options, will be posted in the near future to: <http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/suicide-prevention-and-response>.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Culhan at [aculhan@doe.in.gov](mailto:aculhan@doe.in.gov) or Jeff Wittman at [jwittman@doe.in.gov](mailto:jwittman@doe.in.gov).