

# District Suicide Prevention Policy Check-up



*September is Suicide Prevention Month in the United States, and there is no better time to share and discuss your district's suicide prevention policy with staff, students, and parents. The Indiana Department of Education recommends answering the following questions when conducting the policy check-up:*

## **1) Does our policy identify a single suicide prevention screener to be used by staff? Are all personnel trained on the screener's use?**

*There are a variety of screeners available. Districts may also create their own document. It is important that all schools within the district are using the same screener to eliminate personal bias in the results.*

## **2) Does your policy identify a step-by-step process that will be completed should a student identify having suicidal ideation, suicide plan, and means to carry out the plan? Does your policy address "only ideation," "only plan," or "must have all three" before action is to be taken?**

*Every student who may have ideation (one in five, according to the Indiana Youth Risk Survey, 2019) may not need referral for mental health services. Simply listening to a student allows for de-escalation of their distress, and a safety plan created by a school counselor, school social worker, or other trained staff member (i.e. teacher) may be sufficient. It is recommended that a school policy outlines which responses and actions can be used.*

## **3) Does your policy identify a district suicide prevention coordinator or school site suicide prevention coordinators? Are their roles identified?**

*Use the suggested Model Policy and review the Resource Guide when completing policy check-up.*

**Questions? Email Jason Murrey, IDOE Prevention Specialist: [jmurrey1@doe.in.gov](mailto:jmurrey1@doe.in.gov)**