

## Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training

Providing suicide awareness and prevention training is a response to reduce youth suicide rates by ensuring educators are trained in early identification of warning signs and are better equipped to assist students.

As a result of Senate Bill 129 being passed during the 2016 South Dakota Legislative session, in order to be issued an initial certificate and a renewal certificate as a teacher, administrator, or other educational professional, every applicant must meet the requirement of a minimum of one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training. The requirement for this suicide awareness and prevention training for initial certification or to renew a certificate begins after July 1, 2017.

The South Dakota State Board of Education is tasked with identifying guidelines and evidence-based resources that fulfill the suicide awareness and prevention training requirement and make a list of resources available to school districts.

After consultation with suicide prevention experts, the following guidelines are proposed:

The training must be evidence-based and include:

1. information on youth suicide risk indicators, and
2. appropriate educator responses, and
3. referral sources.

The resource list includes Youth Suicide Prevention Professional Development providers that meet the training requirements, but the list is not inclusive of all resources available. If a school district can verify other resources to provide training that meets the guidelines and time requirement, that resource may be utilized. Any costs associated with training are the responsibility of the school district, school, or applicant.

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### **The Jason Flatt Foundation, Inc. (JFI)**

JFI is an educational organization dedicated to the awareness and prevention of youth suicide. JFI provides tools and resource for students, parents and teachers/youth workers to help identify and assist at-risk youth. One tool is a series of online Staff Development Training Modules that provides information on the awareness and prevention of youth suicide. This series of modules introduces the scope and magnitude of the problem of youth suicide, the signs of concern, risk factors, how to recognize young people who may be struggling, how to approach the student and help an at-risk youth find resources for assistance. At the conclusion of each training module, an opportunity to print a certificate of completion is provided. *(Phone number 1-888-881-2323)*

**Cost:** Free of charge to South Dakota schools/districts/educators.

<http://jasonfoundation.com/get-involved/educator-youth-worker-coach/professional-development-series/>.  
<http://jasonfoundation.com/get-involved/educator-youth-worker-coach/programs/>.

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**The Helpline Center** is best known for suicide prevention work. There is an online training for teachers provided by the Helpline Center. An opportunity to print a certificate of completion is provided. *(Phone number 605-339-4357)*

<http://helplinecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Making-Educators-Partners-in-SP.pdf>.

**Cost:** Free of charge to South Dakota schools/districts/educators.

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**The SD Prevention Network** includes Prevention Resource Centers (PRC) and other organizations and coalitions in South Dakota that provide suicide prevention training. Contact information for suicide prevention and awareness is listed in this document.

<http://www.humanserviceagency.org/NEPrevention/images/NetworkBookr1.pdf>.

**Cost:** Check with the PRC or organization.