



Suicide Prevention Policies in Schools

Equipping School District Staff to Prevent Crisis and Save LGBTQ Lives

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Current American Legislation

- Piecemeal legislation - Each state differs
- Three variations
 - Legislation (36 states) that *requires* a combination of:
 - Teacher Training
 - School Policy
 - Other Training
 - Legislation that *recommends* but does not mandate teacher training or policy (8 States)
 - No Legislation (6 States)

Best Practices in Legislation

- Prevention
 - Teacher Training
 - Student Education
- Intervention
 - Protocols in Place
 - Resources for students, parents, and staff
- Postvention
 - Supports and protocols in place
 - Minimize contagion
- Addressing the Needs of High Risk Youth

Findings

California

- Of LEAs with a suicide prevention policy enacted prior to AB 2246, only two, or 3%, contained language related to LGBTQ youth. By contrast, more than 90% of policies enacted post-AB 2246 address the needs of LGBTQ youth.
- Nearly 90% (343) of the suicide prevention policies met the requirement of addressing all three elements of prevention, intervention, and postvention.
- 79% (306) of suicide prevention policies address “high risk youth.”
- Only about 75% of suicide prevention policies specifically address LGBTQ youth (291).

Findings

New York

- More than 1/3 of New York school districts currently do not have a suicide prevention policy, leaving more than 500,000 students without protective measures in place in their schools
- Only 2% (6) of existing policies address LGBTQ youth - we estimate that well over 2 million youth across NY state are enrolled in schools that are not covered by LGBTQ inclusive suicide prevention policies
- 99.7% (303) of existing policies provide intervention provisions

Positive Movement

- California, Nevada, and Washington D.C. all have legislation that requires best practices and comprehensive policies for all districts
- We are meeting with North Dakota this week on the topic
- Florida's report will be available before the end of the year
- New York collaboration created a Guide for Schools and is pursuing legislative action
- Model School Policy is being utilized by districts across the country

What's Next?

Educate more teachers, administrators, school personnel, parents, and students about the importance of suicide prevention policies

Enable schools to support students and staff in the area of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, especially for high risk populations like LGBTQ youth