

# PREVENT SUICIDE

## How Schools Can Help

***Suicide Prevention experts recommend a multifaceted approach for Suicide Prevention that includes education as well as intervention and postvention strategies.***

### Protocols for helping students at risk of suicide:

- A protocol for helping students who may be at risk of suicide
- A protocol for responding to students who attempt suicide at school
- A list of referral resources to refer students for behavioral health services
- Protocols for responding to suicide death, including:
  - a. Steps to take after the suicide of a student or other member of the school community
  - b. Staff responsible for taking these steps
  - c. Agreements with community partners to help in the event of a suicide

### Staff education and training, including:

- Information about the importance of suicide prevention for all staff
- Training, for all staff, on recognizing and responding to students who may be at risk of suicide.
- Training, for appropriate staff, on assessing, referring, and following up with students identified as at risk of suicide.

### Parent education, including:

- Information for parents about suicide and related behavioral health issues
- Strategies to engage parents in suicide prevention programs

### Student education, including:

- One or more programs to engage students in suicide prevention
- Integration of suicide prevention into other student healthy behavioral health initiatives

*A Guide for Suicide Prevention in New York Schools*

*The Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention for High Schools*

It is *critical* that school districts develop written procedures for staff to follow when warning signs of suicide are observed or suspected. Staff are uniquely positioned to identify warning signs and subtle behavior changes, and schools should plan for what to do if suicide risk is identified. ***School mental health and student support staff are capable of providing further intervention.***

*There are a variety of suicide prevention training programs designed specifically for the needs of the school community.*

*Visit the Training Options page to learn more.*



Resources for Educators: [Warning Signs Video](#) [A Guide for Suicide Prevention](#)