

SUMMARY: This rule establishes state standards and procedures for suicide prevention awareness education for all school personnel and suicide prevention and intervention training for certain personnel in accordance with Title 20-A section 4502 subsection 5-B.

I. Definitions

- A. “Gatekeeper” means a person who knows basic information about suicide, believes that suicide can be prevented, learns basic suicide intervention skills, has the confidence to respond and can assist in the aftermath of a suicide.
- B. “Qualified Trainer” means a person who is trained using national guidelines adopted by organizations that offer research-based training in best practice, and who actively delivers trainings at least once every three years.
- C. “School personnel” means a person required to be certified, authorized, or approved by the department under chapter 501 or 502 of Title 20-A.
- D. “Suicide Prevention Awareness Education” means a one- to two-hour session on suicide prevention awareness that is designed for a general audience, based on accepted national models and;
 - 1. Provides a good foundation in language use, beliefs and attitudes underpinning suicide prevention;
 - 2. Explores common warning signs, risk factors and protective factors for suicide; teaches a simple intervention to ask individuals about suicide and to connect them with appropriate resources; and
 - 3. Identifies school and local resources to use for intervention.
- E. “Suicide Prevention and Intervention Training” means full-day training based on national guidelines for suicide prevention and best practice (from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention). This training is commonly referred to as Gatekeeper Training.
 - 1. Provides the fundamentals of suicide prevention and current information;
 - 2. Supports early identification and referral of potentially suicidal people; and
 - 3. Includes basic suicide intervention skills for increasing personal confidence and one’s ability to effectively respond to suicidal behavior; provides opportunity to practice these basic intervention skills; and identifies helpful national, state and local resources.

Examples of Suicide Prevention and Intervention Training programs include the Maine Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training and ASIST.

II. Training requirements and timeline

- A. All school personnel are required to complete in-service suicide prevention awareness education training.
1. School personnel in high schools and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Regions and Centers, must complete the training by the start of the 2014-2015 school year.
 2. School personnel in elementary and middle schools must complete the training by the start of the 2015-2016 school year.
 3. School personnel hired after the start of the applicable school year must complete the training within 6 months from the beginning of employment.
 4. Suicide prevention awareness education training is recommended for volunteers.
- B. Each school administrative unit (SAU), island, charter, CTE Region and public school that is not in a school administrative unit must have school personnel trained in suicide prevention and intervention. Persons who complete suicide prevention and intervention training are commonly referred to as “gatekeepers.”
1. To be in compliance with this requirement, each unit or school must have at least two school personnel members who have successfully completed the full-day suicide prevention and intervention training.
 2. A CTE Region must have at least one school personnel member who has successfully completed the full-day suicide prevention and intervention training on site. The second school personnel member could be either on site or the CTE Region could have a legal agreement with one of the sending schools assigned to their region.
 3. Additional school personnel must receive the training if the number of students in the school administrative unit or the school is above 1,000 as follows:
 - (a) For 1,001 to 1,500 students, one additional school personnel;
 - (b) For 1,501 to 2,000 students, two additional school personnel;
 - (c) For 2,001 to 2,500 students, three additional school personnel;
 - (d) For 2,501 to 3,000 students, four additional school personnel;
 - (e) For 3,001 to 3,500 students, five additional school personnel;
 - (f) For 3,501 to 4,000 students, six additional school personnel;
 - (g) For 4,001 to 4,500 students, seven additional school personnel;
 - (h) For 4,501 to 5,000 students, eight additional school personnel;
 - (i) For 5,001 to 5,500 students, nine additional school personnel;

- (j) For 5,501 to 6,000 students, 10 additional school personnel;
 - (k) For 6,001 to 6,500 students, 11 additional school personnel;
 - (l) For 6,501 to 7,000 students, 12 additional school personnel;
 - (m) For 7,001 to 7,500 students, 13 additional school personnel; and
 - (n) For 7,501 or more students, 14 additional school personnel.
- 4. It is recommended but not required that each school building have at least one person who has successfully completed the suicide prevention and intervention training.
 - 5. All persons who received training prior to the effective date of this rule may have the training count for compliance with this rule as long as the training meets the requirements set forth in this rule.
 - 6. Training must be renewed at least every five years.

III. Application

- A. All public schools, including charter schools, and approved private schools are required to comply with this rule as it is a matter of health and safety.

IV. Training qualifications

- A. Training must be delivered by a qualified trainer who must be current with suicide prevention and intervention training and have completed training on how to deliver a suicide awareness presentation.
- B. Any training required by this rule must conform to national guidelines adopted by organizations that offer best practice, research-based training.
- C. Training pursuant to this rule must count toward satisfaction of professional development requirements for the department and certification requirements for teachers and other professional personnel under chapters 501 and 502.

IV. Protocols for suicide prevention and intervention

- A. It is recommended that all Maine schools have protocols for suicide prevention and intervention in place.
- B. Guidance for protocols is available through the Maine Suicide Prevention Program.

V. Accountability

- A. SAUs are responsible for putting in place a tracking system to support compliance of all school personnel with this rule.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 20-A MRSA §4502 sub-§5-B

EFFECTIVE DATE:

June 29, 2014 – filing 2014-127