

## New York State Office of Mental Health

### Suicide Prevention Initiative

New York State recognizes suicide as a serious statewide public health problem and accordingly has established suicide prevention as a top priority.

Suicide prevention and early intervention saves lives. Our mission is to reduce the number of suicides in New York State through awareness intervention.

The Suicide Prevention Initiative, sponsored by New York State Office of Mental Health seeks to involve stakeholders at all levels in every community within the State.

Suicide prevention is not only a mental health issue. The approach to prevent suicides must be collaborative in order to create supportive environments and strengthen community actions. We've reached a new era in suicide prevention. Together, we can save lives.

[www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/suicide\\_prevention/](http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/suicide_prevention/)

### Suicide Prevention Center of New York (SPCNY)

SPCNY is a collaboration with and funded by the NYS Office of Mental Health, advances and supports state and local actions via education, training, consultation and coalition building to reduce suicide attempts and suicides in New York State, and to promote the recovery of persons affected by suicide.

[www.preventsuicideNY.org](http://www.preventsuicideNY.org)

### Contact:

Fred Meservey, SPCNY Director  
(518) 402-9122  
Frederick.Meservey@omh.ny.gov

## How we can help

We strive to meet the unique needs of our communities by providing specifically tailored consulting about your training and policy needs. The last several years have seen an expansion of research in all aspects of suicide prevention. Our staff keeps abreast of current knowledge and seeks opportunities to share new tools and resources.

### School-Based Suicide Prevention

We are prepared with current best-practice recommendations to support schools, whether they are just beginning to review suicide prevention and postvention policies, or they are moving toward comprehensive implementation of suicide prevention practices. Please contact us for access to any of the resources or materials found in this brochure.

### Links to Trainers

We are connected to a network of skilled, certified trainers able to address awareness, intervention skills, postvention and community planning for suicide prevention.

### Contact:

Pat Breux, Youth Prevention Specialist  
Suicide Prevention Center of New York  
(518) 402-1156  
pat.breux@omh.ny.gov

Contact us, we can help! Together, we can save lives.

[www.omh.gov.ny/omhweb/suicide\\_prevention/](http://www.omh.gov.ny/omhweb/suicide_prevention/)

[www.preventsuicideNY.org](http://www.preventsuicideNY.org)

Creating  
Suicide Safety  
in Schools

Tools &  
Resources



# Creating Suicide Safety in Schools Workshop

## The need

Few issues that administrators face evoke as much concern as youth suicide. As this issue has gained prominence, so have the many programs being offered. Schools looking for guidance are often inundated with guide books, training programs and presenters. Sorting out how a school should be investing its limited resources can be a daunting task.

## Workshop Description

**We provide a model that looks at 4 basic categories of preparedness/assets:**

1. Informed and skilled staff – training for faculty and ancillary staff to recognize warning signs and know what to do about it.
2. Resilient students – Developmentally appropriate education programming to support protection and resilience.
3. Tools and resources to identify students at risk for suicide, assess the level of risk, provide intervention appropriate to the level of risk.
4. A planned response following a suicide of a school community member (student, staff or parent).

**And then two foundational supports:**

- Policies, protocols and procedures.
- Community/parent engagement and support.

The 6 hour workshop is for school planning teams. Often several schools in a district or an area come together to host the training and each sends a planning team. What that planning team looks like varies greatly from school to school.

## Workshop Objectives

**This workshop is designed to help school personnel:**

- Assess existing suicide prevention and response readiness
- Receive guidance in current best practice in school based suicide prevention
- Develop a customized implementation plan
- Access free and low cost resources

## What people are saying about Creating Suicide Safety in Schools

***“I just wanted you to know your presentation was one of the best workshops I have attended in years. Thank you so much for the outstanding workshop.”***

**—Jill Eklof**  
School Psychologist  
Champlain Valley Education Center

***“I just wanted to take a quick minute to thank you again for the amazing presentation. Many of the staff members here at Fox Lane Middle have been discussing your workshop since you left... that is the sign of an effective professional development course, one that sparks ideas and action. Everyone was in agreement that this was a terrific learning opportunity, albeit too short.”***

**—Peter Faustino, Psy.D.**  
New York Delegate  
National Association of School Psychologists

## Endorsements

***“The New York Association of School Psychologists proudly endorses Creating Suicide Safety in Schools. This workshop provides schools with important information about suicide, and gives educators the tools to react when they see or hear about suicide warning signs in their students. Creating Suicide Safety in Schools fulfills NYASP’s mission, which is to serve children, their families, and the school community by promoting psychological well-being, excellence in education, and sensitivity to diversity through best practices in school psychology.”***

- This workshop is listed in the *Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention (BPR) Section III: Adherence to Standards*
- The BPR is a collaborative project of Suicide Prevention Resource Center and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

## To Access the Workshop

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Suicide Prevention Center of New York  
[www.PreventSuicideNY.org](http://www.PreventSuicideNY.org)

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pat.breux@omh.ny.gov  
(518) 402-1156