

Oregon Safe to Learn Act

HB 2327 & SB 584

A Proposal By the Oregon Task Force On School Safety



A Statewide School Safety and Prevention System Will Help Ensure Safe Schools

Incidents of school violence have created a critical challenge for schools and communities around the country -- how to ensure that schools are safe havens where students can learn and thrive without being bullied, harassed, or face physical harm from violent acts.

The Oregon Task Force on School Safety proposes establishing a statewide school safety and prevention system, with a four-pronged approach to strengthen safety in Oregon schools. This model focuses on the primary drivers of safety threats to students: bullying, harassment, physical violence and suicide. Increased communication and collaboration among schools, law enforcement, mental health providers, juvenile justice and other agencies are a key part of this solution.

The Task Force's goal is to ensure that every Oregon student and parent is confident their school is a physically and emotionally safe place to be.

THE HARD FACTS

- More than 9% of 8th graders report not going to school at least one day in the previous 30 due to safety concerns.*
- Nearly one in three 8th graders -- and over one in five 11th graders -- report having been bullied at school.*
- More than 30% of Oregon 8th graders report feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities.*
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth ages 10-24 in Oregon. **
- In 2017, 107 youths ages 10-24 took their own lives in Oregon.**
- 239 shootings at schools nationwide since 2014, including 138 deaths***

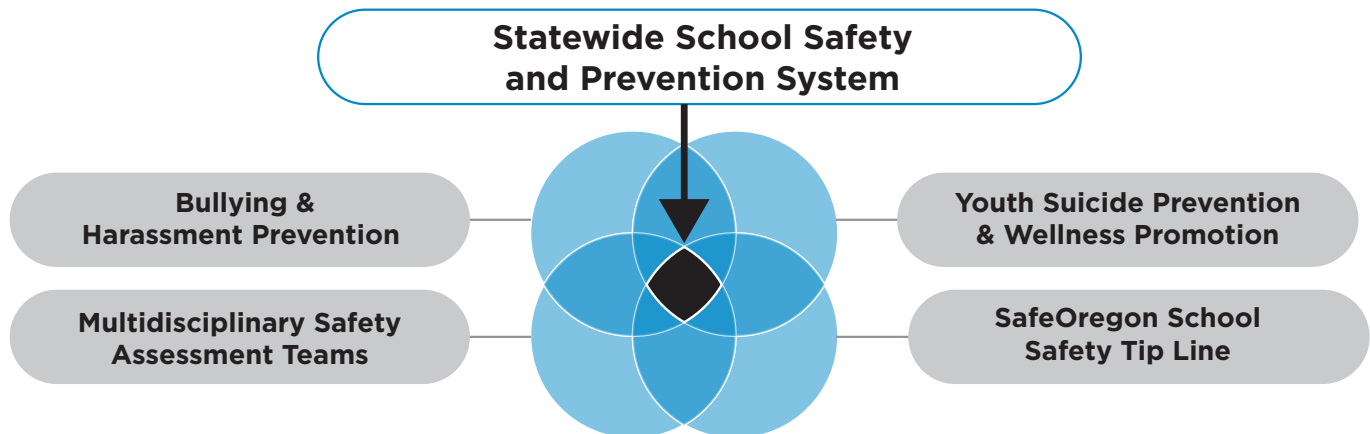
* 2017 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey

**Oregon Health Authority, 2018

***Gun Violence Archive, 2018

Systems Integration

Connection, Synergy and Coherence



The Statewide School Safety and Prevention System will be aligned with the Oregon Equity Lens in order to mitigate any potential disproportionate impact on students of color; students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual, or two spirit (LGBTQIA2); female students; students with disabilities; as well as other protected classes of individuals.

MAKING THE CASE: Four Key Components of an Effective School Safety and Prevention System

NEXT STEPS

- Hire School Safety and Prevention Specialists (8.0 FTE) to work with schools on a regional basis
- Hire Youth Suicide Prevention Specialists (5.0 FTE) to work with schools on a regional basis
- Hire 1.1 FTE to provide training and technical assistance for student safety assessment
- Establish a program administrator (1.0 FTE) at Oregon Department of Education to oversee program

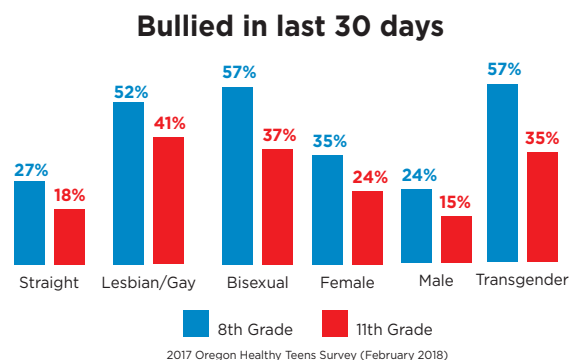


To genuinely make a difference, a multi-system approach is required, with schools, law enforcement, mental health and others, pooling resources and working together to keep students safe.

1 Implement effective bullying and harassment prevention programs

Bullying and harassment are consistently the most common problems reported to the SafeOregon tip line. In 2017, nearly one third of 8th graders and 21% of 11th graders reported being bullied.

**2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey*



2 Implement effective youth suicide prevention and wellness promotion programs

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Oregon youth aged 10-24.* In 2017, 107 youths aged 24 or younger took their own lives. That averages nearly two youths each week. School programs aimed at prevention show promising evidence of reducing youth suicides and increasing awareness.

**Oregon Health Authority, 2018*

Number of Suicides Youths aged 10-24

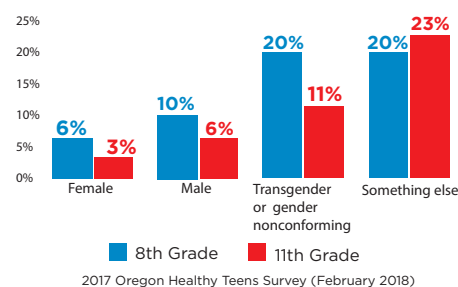


Oregon Health Authority data, 2018

3 Implement multidisciplinary safety assessment teams

There have been 239 shootings at schools nationwide since 2014, resulting in 138 deaths.* Schools need the support of a system that brings together educators, law enforcement, mental health experts and others to quickly assess threats and intervene before a threat escalates to a crisis. **Gun Violence Archive, 2018*

Threatened With a Weapon at School in Last 12 Months



4 Promote the use of SafeOregon

The SafeOregon school safety tip line was implemented in 2017 to provide

2376

SafeOregon Tip Reports
January 31, 2017 - November 30, 2018
SafeOregon Data Report (December 2018)

students and community members with an easy-to-use tool for alerting appropriate school, law enforcement and mental health professionals about potential threats, either to self or others. Currently, more than 1,072 Oregon schools are enrolled. The tip line already is credited with generating tips that have saved lives.

**SafeOregon Tip Reports*

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The Oregon Safe to Learn Act was developed in a collaborative process that included input from education, law enforcement, public mental health and state agencies. Key partners endorsing the proposal include:

- Oregon Department of Education
- Oregon State Police
- Confederation of Oregon School Administrators
- Oregon Association of Education Service Districts
- Oregon Education Association
- Oregon School Employees Association
- Oregon School Boards Association
- Association of Community Mental Health Programs
- Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police
- Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
- Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Oregon Safe to Learn Act - HB 2327 and SB 584 Creating a Statewide School Safety & Prevention System

The proposal has strong, bipartisan support and bicameral sponsorship. The proposal is supported by Oregon Governor Kate Brown and by the Joint Interim Committee on Student Success.

