



SB 52 A: Youth Suicide Prevention Policy and Plans in Oregon Schools

Youth suicide is a tragedy that can impact any family, school, and community. For many years in Oregon, we lost approximately 50 people aged 10-24 to suicide each year. In 2016, that number grew to 98 young people, reflecting steady growth nearly every year for the past 4 years. Some populations are at even higher risk, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) youth. The Oregon Health Authority's 2017 Healthy Teens Survey uncovered a startling reality:

- Nearly half lesbian, gay or bisexual 8th graders have contemplated suicide
- Close to a quarter of lesbian, gay or bisexual 8th graders have attempted suicide
- Almost a third of transgender 8th graders have attempted suicide

Effectively Responding in Our Schools

Schools need to be ready with the right knowledge, tools, and resources to address the issue of youth suicide and support all Oregon students. Unfortunately, Oregon is one of only three states that do not have suicide prevention regulations for schools in statute and many schools do not have access to national best practices around suicide prevention. **Senate Bill 52 A:**

- Provides all school districts in Oregon with a model suicide prevention policy, based on national best practices.
- Requires school districts to have a suicide prevention policy including procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

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 From the Desk of
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