

Board-adopted criteria for suicide prevention training

The Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board has adopted criteria that should be included in all suicide prevention trainings for the purposes of renewing a teaching license.

Suicide prevention training should include:

1. Suicide is a serious public health problem
2. Current research on adolescent brain development
3. What research shows about suicide:
 - a. Risk factors
 - b. Protective factors
 - c. Research-based warning signs for youth suicide (www.youthsuicidewarningsigns.org)
4. Teen suicide (myths vs. facts)
 - a. Self-harm vs. suicidal behavior
5. Teens and mental health (normal adolescence vs. warning signs and early onset mental illness)
 - a. Communicating with teens
6. What to do if someone is at risk (how to ask about suicide, how to respond and what to do next)
 - a. Support circles and networks
 - b. Treatment for teens, treatment compliance issues, issues for chronically suicidal adolescents
 - c. Working with special populations (bullying and suicide, LGBTQ and suicide)
 - d. Cultural considerations
7. Suicide prevention in schools (prevention, intervention, postvention and reintegration)