

Suicide Prevention Training Guidance for School Leaders

This recording is designed to provide more information on the new legislation mandating suicide prevention trainings (ARS 15-120), and to provide school leaders training information and a connection to behavioral health services

Presenters: Kelli Williams from AHCCCS and Rebecca Astorga, Amy Castellanos, and Lindsay Walker from the Arizona Department of Education



Questions to be addressed:

- **What is ARS 15-120 or SB 1468, the Mitch Warnock Act?**
 - **The role of AHCCCS**
 - **The role of ADE**
 - **What trainings are identified by AHCCCS to meet this legislation?**
 - **How were the trainings selected?**



Questions to be addressed:

As a school leader:

- **What is my responsibility?**
- **How can I access training for my staff?**
- **Is there a cost?**



Questions to be addressed:

- **Is there a resource directory?**
- **Who can I contact to provide suicide prevention training?**
- **Is there a model policy or guidance on best practices for suicide prevention?**



Why is suicide prevention important?

More than 1500 Arizonans  died last year by suicide.

It's the 8th leading cause of death statewide.

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/operations/managing-excellence/breakthrough-plans/suicide-prevention-action-plan.pdf>

What do we call the new legislation?

1 Mitch
Warnock
Act/SB
1468

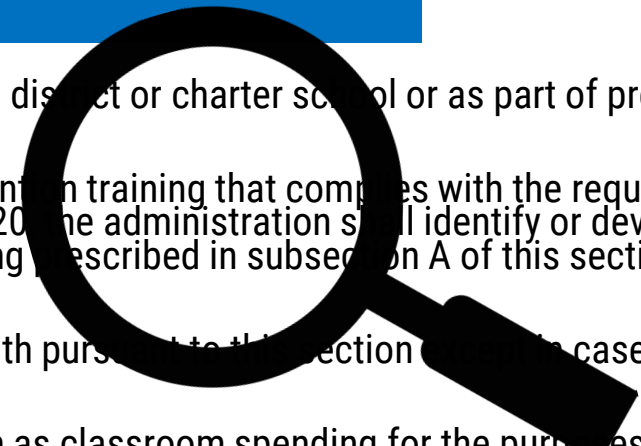
2 Arizona
Revised
Statute
15-120



What is A.R.S. 15-120?

- 15-120. Suicide prevention training; approved materials; posting; immunity; spending classification
- A. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, school districts and charter schools shall provide training in suicide awareness and prevention for school guidance counselors, teachers, principals and other school personnel who work with pupils in grades six through twelve. Each person who is required to obtain training pursuant to this section shall complete that training at least once every three years. The training must include:
 - 1. Training in suicide prevention.
 - 2. Training to identify students at risk of suicide.
 - 3. Appropriate referrals to mental health services.
- B. The training:
 - 1. Must use evidence-based training materials.
 - 2. May be provided within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the school district or charter school or as part of professional development activities.
- C. The Arizona health care cost containment system administration shall make available suicide prevention training that complies with the requirements of this section and post this training information on the administration's website. On or before July 1, 2020, the administration shall identify or develop and post on the administration's website a list of approved materials that schools may use to provide the training described in subsection A of this section. The administration shall annually update these approved materials.
- D. School personnel, entities or any other persons are not civilly liable for any actions taken in good faith pursuant to this section in the cases of gross negligence, willful misconduct or intentional wrongdoing.
- E. The auditor general shall classify any costs incurred by school districts in implementing this section as classroom spending for the purposes of the annual report prepared pursuant to section 41-1279.03, subsection A, paragraph 9.

Let's take a closer look!



ARS
15-120

A. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, school districts and charter schools shall provide training in suicide awareness and prevention for school guidance counselors, teachers, principals and other **school personnel** who work with pupils **in grades six through twelve**. Each person who is required to obtain training pursuant to this section shall complete that training **at least once every three years**. The training must include:

1. SY 2020-2021
2. All School Staff
3. Every 3 Years



B. The training prescribed in subsection A of this section:

1. Must use evidence-based training materials
2. May be provided within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the school district or charter school or as part of professional development activities



Did you know?



Suicide remains the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year olds worldwide.

https://www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide/suicideprevent/en/

ARS
15-120

C. The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) shall make available suicide prevention training that complies with the requirements of this section and post this training information on the administration's website. On or before July 1, 2020, the administration shall identify or develop and post on the administration's website a list of approved materials that schools may use to provide the training prescribed in subsection A of this section. The administration shall annually update these approved materials.



ARS
15-120

Any curriculum that you would like to be considered for review, please submit to:
kelli.williams@azahcccs.gov

ARS
15-120

D. School personnel, entities or any other persons are not civilly liable for any actions taken in good faith pursuant to this section except in cases of gross negligence, willful misconduct or intentional wrongdoing.



ARS
15-120

E. The auditor general shall classify any costs incurred by school districts in implementing this section as classroom spending for the purposes of the annual report prepared pursuant to section 41-1279.03, subsection A, paragraph 9.



It is estimated for every completed suicide...



...there are 20 others who have attempted

<https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/>

The role of AHCCCS

AHCCCS will provide the list of evidence-based suicide prevention trainings. In addition, AHCCCS will support educators and school staff by linking them to available trainings in the community and identifying funding opportunities.

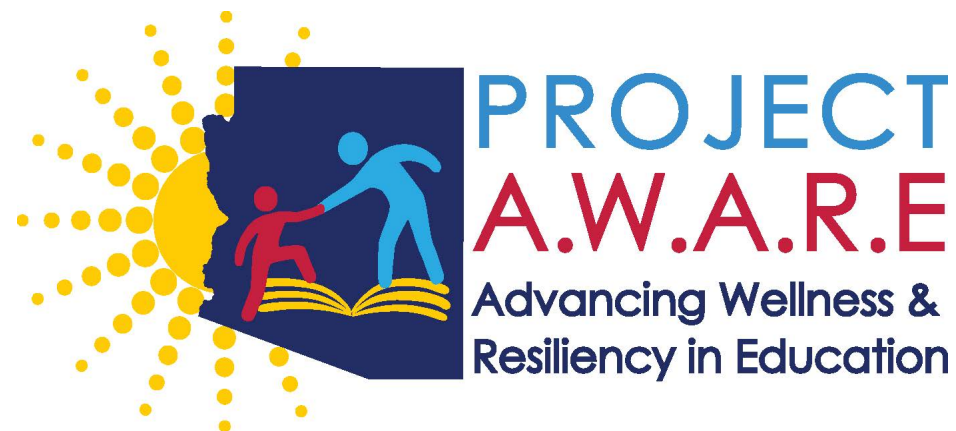


Join the AHCCCS BH in Schools/Suicide Prevention Listserv! Get a monthly update on what's new.



The role of ADE

Although ADE is not assigned a role in the statute, we will coordinate with AHCCCS as much as possible and provide any necessary guidance to the field through our channels.



What trainings are identified by AHCCCS?

- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) (available online)
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
- At-Risk for High School Educators by Kognito (available online)
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Suicide Alertness for Everyone (safeTALK)
- ACT on FACTS (available online)
- More than Sad – Suicide Prevention Education for Teachers and other School Personnel
- Be a Link! Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training



How were the trainings selected?

The methodology used to select these materials include the review of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Suicide Prevention Toolkit for High Schools, review of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center for additional gateway trainings, and review of articles addressing cultural considerations, particularly for tribal nations, in suicide prevention. This work was conducted by a third-party contractor.



Responsibility of School Leadership

- Be Positive
- Reduce Stigma
- Establish Suicide Prevention Policy
- Maintain a Record of Staff Training Attendance



One of the best protective factors keeping kids from dying by suicide is having a strong relationship with an adult.

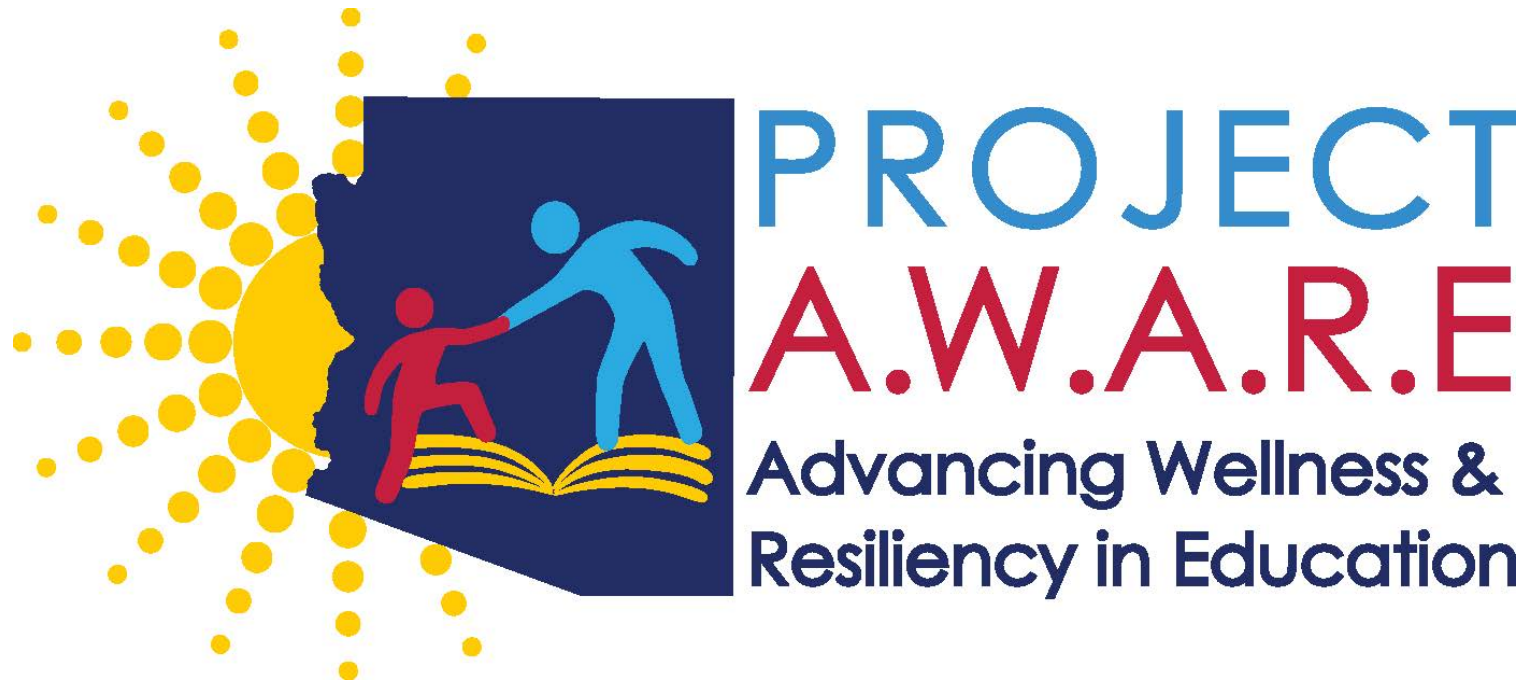


You are critical to preventing suicide!

<https://www.sprc.org/about-suicide/risk-protective-factors>

Is there a cost associated with these trainings?

Yes, and there are organizations willing and ready to assist!



Is there a cost associated with these trainings?

About Project AWARE

Training

Resources

Contact Us

Need Help Now?

Arizona Project AWARE provides evidenced-based training for educators in the areas of Suicide Prevention & Intervention. Request a:

Train the Trainer

Group Training

Attend a Training

Learn More



How can I access training for my staff?

Arizona Department of Education
Arizona Complete Health
Arizona Youth Partnership
Crisis Response Network
Help and Hope for Youth
EMPACT La Frontera

Mercy Care
Southwest Behavioral Health Services
Stronger as One
Touchstone
Teen Lifeline
County Health Departments & more!

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Is there a model policy or guidance on best practices for suicide prevention?

- Each training will provide best practices for suicide prevention
- School leaders will determine suicide prevention protocols and place those in writing.
- For a sample model suicide prevention policy email: kelli.williams@azahcccs.gov



Connecting with a Behavioral Health Provider

**Check out the AHCCCS website
for more information:**

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Initiatives/BehavioralHealthServices/>



What resources can I access for Crisis Lines?

AHCCCS

- [Crisis Lines by County](#)

Crisis Text Line

- Text HOME to 741-741

Teen Lifeline

- 602-248-TEEN (8336)

Mon – Thurs 3 – 9 pm

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

The Trevor Project (LGBTQ+)

- Text START to 678-678

Trans Lifeline

- 1-877-565-8860



What resources can I access for Warm Lines?

What is a warm line?

These lines are to be used for contact in non-emergent mental health concerns.

Arizona Warm Line 1-888-404-5530

Maricopa County 602-347-1100

Pima County 520-770-9909



What resources can I access for Behavioral Health Providers and Suicide Prevention Help?

AHCCCS

- [Suicide Prevention Lines by County](#)
- [Connect to Behavioral Health Providers](#)

Arizona Department of Education
[Project AWARE](#)

Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition
[Resources by County](#)

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Arizona Branch
[Find Support](#)



Frequently Asked Questions

[Click here to
access the current](#)



Questions
+
Inquiries

Thank you for taking time to view this informational video.

If you have any questions or inquiries regarding the information mentioned in this video, please email:



ADE: SchoolSafety.SocialWellness@azed.gov
Subject: ARS 15-120 Info

AHCCCS: kelli.williams@azahcccs.gov

