



## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: September 16, 2020 Superintendent: Dave Valenzuela

Administrator/Staff: Erica Butler & Jessica Durrant

Type of Item:  Informational  Action

**Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?**

We have applied for a grant in the amount of \$1,500 with Lines for Life in partnership with Oregon Health Authority for activities to take place beginning January 2021 (or as conditions allow). The focus of the grant is centered around suicide prevention and intervention training after a district team, made up of school counselors and district office staff, writes a comprehensive, K-12 suicide prevention plan the fall. The plan will be written to include procedures for prevention, intervention and postvention. Grant money would be used to provide training for all staff, district-wide.

**Provide history/background information on your proposal:**

Last year, the Oregon Legislature passed Adi's Act (Senate Bill 52) which requires Oregon school districts to implement a suicide prevention, intervention and postvention plan that is equity focused and evidence based. School Suicide Prevention plans focus in seven different areas: prevention tools, intervention tools, postvention tools, staff training and education, student training and education, family involvement and resources. This is an essential piece to support students, staff, families and local communities in promoting positive mental health messages through curriculum, training, speakers, etc. along with intervention assessments, support and referrals to community partners as needed.

According to the CDC, in Oregon during the year 2018 suicide became the number one cause of death among people aged 10-24. Oregon ranks 11th in the United States for youth suicide death rates. We know this number does not take into account the current situation with quarantine and restrictions because of COVID-19 which has increased social isolation, lack of stability, anxiety/depression and other mental health problems for many of our youth in our attendance boundaries along with youth across the nation.

**List the advantages of your proposal:**

1. Administration and counseling staff at each school and district nurses will be trained in specific suicide intervention training (ASIST) to better serve students who are at-risk and support their families.
2. A TRSD staff member will become an instructor for Question, Persuade & Refer (QPR) training. This will save the district money when training staff with the added potential to train students and community members who are interested.
3. All TRSD staff will be trained in QPR to increase our ability to identify early warning signs, persuade the student or person to get help, and direct them to appropriate school personnel to help with intervention, risk assessment and resource referral. This training also helps staff members build a community to encourage people to ask for help and talk about suicide.
4. TRSD will be in compliance with Senate Bill 52 in having a comprehensive suicide prevention plan in place.

**List possible disadvantages of your proposal:**

None known.

**List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?**

We try to provide training when other funds are available, delaying valuable training for all TRSD staff.

Superintendent's recommendation(s): Approve: Yes  No