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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Student Services Directors  
School District Staff Development Coordinators  
School Principals

**FROM:** Hershel Lyons

**DATE:** October 14, 2016

**SUBJECT: Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Materials for K-12 Instructional Personnel**

### **Contact Information**

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**DPS: 2016-157**

House Bill 7029 created section 1012.583, Florida Statutes (F.S.), regarding continuing education and inservice training for youth suicide awareness and prevention. The legislation requires the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to consult with the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts to develop a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials for K-12 instructional personnel. The approved list of materials must include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services and refer youth to appropriate services. The approved trainings may include self-review materials or district adopted materials that meet criteria established by FDOE. Schools that incorporate two hours of training for all instructional personnel shall be considered a “Suicide Prevention Certified School.”

In collaboration with the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts, FDOE established criteria for reviewing youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials and reviewed nationally recognized youth suicide awareness trainings, including trainings currently used by Florida school districts. Based on this review, a list of FDOE-approved trainings that meet the statutory requirements and additional criteria established by a group of suicide prevention experts was developed (**Attachment A**). The list of approved trainings will be posted at the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention website at <http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/professional-dev/professional-learning-programs.stml>.

HERSHEL LYONS  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A school district may request that FDOE review youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials currently being used by the district that are not on the FDOE-approved list by completing and submitting the attached *District Request for Review* form (**Attachment B**) with the following documentation:

- Master Inservice Plan description of the training
- PowerPoint and training manual
- Pre- and/or Post-test
- Supplemental resources provided to participants

Inservice credit for youth suicide awareness and prevention is awarded based on completion of a two-hour, approved training, 80 percent proficiency on a post-test covering the training content, and completion of a designated follow-up activity. Schools that choose to use an online training format must supplement the training with a minimum of ½ hour of staff development training that identifies school mental health professionals, the school/district protocol for responding to a student with suicidal thoughts or intent, and school and community mental health services. A sample Master Inservice Plan description (**Attachment C**) is provided. Districts may adopt and/or modify, in consultation with district Student Services personnel, but must maintain the core set of objectives listed in the sample description.

In the near future, FDOE will initiate rule development activities for implementation of s. 1012.583, F.S., including procedures for receiving the designation of a “Suicide Prevention Certified School.”

If you have questions regarding implementation of this legislation, please contact Adrienne Campbell at [Adrienne.Campbell@fldoe.org](mailto:Adrienne.Campbell@fldoe.org) or 850-245-0555. For questions about suicide awareness training, please contact Dr. David Wheeler at [David.Wheeler@fldoe.org](mailto:David.Wheeler@fldoe.org) or 850-245-7847.

HL/acd

Attachments