

WORKSHEET: Preparing for a Death by Suicide

(School Crisis Teams)

Suicide Prevention

CWK Network

Considerations - All schools in New York State are required to identify a school building level crisis team. In the aftermath of a death by suicide, this team would be charged with providing the initial response, engaging additional community supports, communicating with district leadership, engaging grief and mental health supports, and identifying an following up with those affected and with students at risk.

These activities may have to take place quickly, and with crisis team members who may be personally affected by the loss. It is crucial therefore, that pre-planning and team development are conducted at regular intervals. Regularly scheduled meetings and practicing with table top exercises is one way to prepare.

Online resources

[After a Suicide Toolkit for Schools](#)

[When a Child's Friend Dies by Suicide](#)

[Preparing a Child to Attend the Funeral of a Friend](#)

[Memorial after Suicide at School](#)

In person training

Lifelines Postvention: School Response to Suicide and Traumatic Death is a National Best Practice professional development for school administrators and crisis team leaders. This offering is available through the Suicide Prevention Center of New York. Contact: Pat Breux at Pat.breux@omh.ny.gov to inquire about organizing this workshop near you.

BENCHMARKS: Score your school's status from 1 to 5 with regards to the benchmarks below. Then note some initial steps toward best practice.

BENCHMARKS - Procedures for After a death by suicide <i>(Crisis Team)</i>	1	2	3	4	5
A. There is an identified building level crisis team, with an identified team leader. Planning notes:					
B. Crisis team meets annually to review roles and responsibilities, participate in readiness assessment, and review crisis protocols and procedures. Planning notes:					

<p>C. District level crisis and safety leaders meet with building level teams annually.</p> <p>Planning notes:</p>					
<p>D. Building level crisis team meets at least twice a year to practice response with table top exercise.</p> <p>Planning notes:</p>					
<p>E. District has reviewed <i>After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools</i>, and/or <i>Lifelines Postvention: School Response Suicide and Traumatic Death</i>, both National Best Practices, to assess training needs or updates to procedures and policies.</p> <p>Planning notes:</p>					
<p>F. There is a plan for assessing level of response required and accessing district level or community level supports if need arises.</p> <p>Planning notes:</p>					
<p>G. Supportive and honest debrief, care of caregivers, and ongoing support of those affected and those at risk are integrated into crisis procedures.</p> <p>Planning notes:</p>					

1 = not yet an item of focus, 2 = initial actions have been taken, 3 = several steps have been taken, 4 = nearly integrated into practice, 5 = comprehensively and sustainably integrated into practice