



Date: March 2023

To: Public School District Administrators, Private School Administrators, and Interested Parties

From: Paul Manriquez, Assistant State Superintendent 
Division for Learning Support

Re: Notification of Youth Suicide Prevention Resources

Attached, please find the Model Notice of Suicide Prevention Resources for 2023. Wisconsin Statute sec. 115.365 requires that “Each school board and the governing body of each private school annually shall inform their professional staff of the resources available from the department and other sources regarding suicide prevention.” It also requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to create a model notice for schools. This notice is attached and available for download, along with many other resources, on the [DPI Youth Suicide Prevention webpage](#).

Data from the 2021 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) present concerning results regarding youth suicide in our state. When compared to 2011 YRBS data, there has been a steady decline in the students reporting positive protective factors (sense of belonging, trusted school adult, confident they can get help when needed) and an increase in many suicide indicators. From 2011 to 2021, there has been a significant increase in the percentage of high school students reporting themselves as clinically depressed (23% in 2011 and 34% in 2021). Across those same ten years, there has also been an increase in the percentage of students who report that they have made a plan for ending their lives (12% in 2011 to 15% in 2021). Finally, the 2021 percentage of female students who report attempting suicide is twice that of males (11% for females and 5% for males). You can find YRBS data from 2021 to 2009 on the [DPI YRBS webpage](#).

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, to address suicide prevention in Wisconsin schools, administers an annual Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grant Program. Any tribal, private, or public school where pupils attend high school grades is eligible to apply for the Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grant. Recipients of a grant under this program may use the grant funds of up to \$1,000 to support an existing peer-to-peer suicide prevention program or implement a new one. Grantees are highly encouraged to implement an evidenced-based program (such as Hope Squad or Sources of Strength). More information on this grant program can be found on the [DPI Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grants webpage](#).

Please share this model notice with all of your staff members; anyone who works with students must be able to recognize suicide warning signs and know how to respond quickly. Since this model notice is not covered by copyright, you can easily customize it by including resources from your school, local mental health providers, county mental health services, crisis services, or local chapters of Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA). You may also put the notice on your district letterhead, make copies, or forward it at will.

Please join me in continuing our important work in youth suicide prevention. If you have questions, please contact the Student Services/Prevention and Wellness team at dpisspw@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 266-8960

Attachment