



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-100

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
Teachers
Counselors

FROM: Bruce Hayes, School Safety Consultant
Accountability Division

DATE: September 8, 2015

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention Resource

NEW WEB-BASED SUICIDE PREVENTION TOOL FOR WYOMING SCHOOLS

For many years, Wyoming has suffered from one of the highest per capita suicide rates in the country. In response to this concern, a new web-based suicide prevention tool is now available to Wyoming schools, accessible at www.classroommentalhealth.org. It can be incorporated into districts' and schools' overall strategy for preventing suicide.

Teachers and other school-based professionals are in a unique position to notice distress in students, and can intervene in ways others cannot. This tool serves as an additional resource to support existing school-based mental health and suicide prevention programs. It also provides school staff with a variety of tools and resources which can be easily used in a teacher's regular classroom routine.

The site is designed to serve teachers, students, parents, principals, and counselors. It predominantly supports educators of grades 8-12 in three specific ways:

- 1) Providing strategies that create a more beneficial classroom atmosphere for student mental health.
- 2) Encouraging communication between school staff, parents, guardians, and families of students who may be struggling with mental health concerns.
- 3) Aiding the referral process for students in distress.

This tool was developed by the University of Michigan's Depression Center in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education, Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming, Teton County School District, Gull Lake Community Schools in Gull Lake, MI, Ann Arbor Public Schools, and many additional organizations.

It is the collective hope of these partners and many Wyoming educators that together, we can save lives.

For more information, please contact Bruce Hayes, School Safety Consultant, at 307-777-6198 or bruce.hayes@wyo.gov.