

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

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August 11, 2015

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller  
H-107 State Circle  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
H-101 State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Extension Request - Youth Suicide Prevention School Program Report (MSAR #540)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Section 7-503 of the Education Article established a statewide Youth Suicide Prevention School Program administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in cooperation with participating local education agencies; local community agencies involved in suicide prevention; local community mental health programs; and youth services bureaus. Although an annual report was due August 1, 2015, we would respectfully like to request an extension to September 15, 2015.

Part of the Youth Suicide Program is an annual report requirement. MSDE respectfully requests an extension of the report dates from August 1, 2015 to September 15, 2015. MSDE would like to gather information from local education agencies (LEAs) on their activities concerning youth suicide prevention to include them in the report. We believe the information gathered from the LEAs will be valuable to understanding what types of youth suicide prevention programs are being operated within the State's school systems since MSDE's federal funding for the State program was eliminated several years ago.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Kristina Kyles, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Support, at (410) 767-0275 or by email at [kristina.kyles@maryland.gov](mailto:kristina.kyles@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

C: Rachel Hise  
Sarah Albert



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

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September 24, 2015

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller  
H-107 State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
H-101 State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

RE: Youth Suicide Prevention School Program Report (MSAR #540)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

This letter is intended to fulfill the reporting summary required by Sections §7-505 and §7-506 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 1986. Sections 7-501 through 7-504 require schools to establish youth suicide programs that include staff development, classroom programs of instruction, and crisis intervention. Sections 7-505 and 7-506 require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to allocate funds to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that submit proposals pursuant to certain criteria and to submit a summary of the LEA reports to the Governor and the General Assembly.

As currently written, §7-506(c) of the statute states that the Governor shall include funds in the State's budget designated for the Youth Suicide Prevention Program. From 1986 to 2006, funds were distributed through MSDE to LEAs to support youth suicide prevention programming in schools. In addition, §7-505 (b)(4) directs MSDE to seek federal funds available under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. These federal funds are now managed by the Behavior Health Administration. Currently, there are no available funds through MSDE to support these programs.

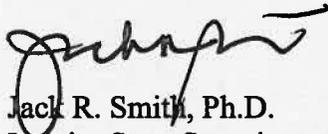
MSDE has continually supported the development of Youth Prevention Programs within LEAs since the passage of Sections 7-501 through 7-504 authorizing schools to establish youth suicide programs, including staff development, classroom programs of instruction, crisis intervention, and other related policies and procedures. This is being accomplished through collaborations and

partnerships with colleges, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and various community agencies. These programs, and support from MSDE & DHMH, have become an integral part of school-wide and system-wide planning. As a result of this legislation, youth suicide prevention curriculum is now taught as a part of the comprehensive health program in our public schools, all LEAs have a designated point of contact, and all LEAs implement a suicide prevention program.

The 24 LEAs continue annually to develop and implement youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies. Many local school systems are using evidence-based programs to provide gatekeeper trainings to school staff and students. These include programs such as Yellow Ribbon, ASSIST K-12, Question, Persuade and Referral (QPR), and Self Talk. MSDE sponsors an annual suicide prevention professional development activity attended by the 25 local suicide prevention points of contact. Attached is a chart that lists the various suicide prevention LEAs and The SEED School of Maryland. The professional development highlights and disseminates best practices, resources, identification of programs and implementation strategies. Staff at MSDE, among their other duties, are assigned to work on youth suicide prevention in schools, and serve as members to the statewide Suicide Prevention Task Force. We intend to continue these efforts.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Kristina Kyles-Smith, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student, Family and School Support, at (410) 767-0275 or by email at [kristina.kyles-smith@maryland.gov](mailto:kristina.kyles-smith@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.  
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

JRS/KKS

Attachment

## Maryland's Youth Suicide Prevention School Program 2014-2015

Local School System	Local School System Coordinator/ Contact	Phone/ Email	Identify Local Program/Grade Level	Does LSS Provide Professional Development/ To Whom?	Briefly Describe Local Prevention Activities
<b>Allegany County</b>	Dr. Benjamin Brauer	301-759-2410 Benjamin.brauer@acpsmd.org	Applied Suicide Intervention Training (A.S.I.S.T)	Yes- School Counselors, Pupil Personnel Workers, School Psychologists, and Administrators	Faculty in services in a train the trainer model, prevention signage, prevention materials provided in graduation packets for all seniors.
<b>Anne Arundel County</b>	Nickolas P. Silvestri Resource School Psyc	410-222-5285 <a href="mailto:nsilvestri@aacps.org">nsilvestri@aacps.org</a>	Lifelines curriculum in secondary schools Health Education; Question, Persuade and Refer training(QPR) for staff and selected student groups; ID Card "Help your Friend" lessons delivered by teachers when student ID badges given out, badges have Warmline phone #, lessons instruct students to call anonymously when concerned about others	Student Services and all Schools' faculties and staff	Staff trained in QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer), Regular ppt trainings about signs of depression and suicide awareness delivered each fall.
<b>Baltimore City</b>	Karl E. Perry, Sr. Chief School Supports Officer	443-642-4669 <a href="mailto:KPerry@bcps.k12.md.us">KPerry@bcps.k12.md.us</a>	<u>Suicide ideation prevention is provided for employees that support students in grades K-12.</u>	The Office of School Counseling provides professional development to school counselors annually regarding suicide prevention.  This year's training will be included in the October systemic professional development workshop.  Professional school counselors also work with related service providers (Social Workers, School Psychologists and other mental health professionals) within their schools to provide suicide prevention training to school-	Through professional development for school counseling staff, participants are taught to help students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase knowledge about depression, symptoms, and to provide facts about suicide</li> <li>• Increase their ability to recognize the risk factors</li> </ul>

## Maryland's Youth Suicide Prevention School Program 2014-2015

Local School System	Local School System Coordinator/ Contact	Phone/ Email	Identify Local Program/Grade Level	Does LSS Provide Professional Development/ To Whom?	Briefly Describe Local Prevention Activities
				<p>based staff. The Office of Psychological Services provides professional development to all school psychologists annually with a emphasis on prevention. Procedures are in place for school-based clinicians to follow. This year, it will be covered in October professional development workshops.</p> <p>School social workers receive professional development on August 26, 2015 from a Special Response Team of clinicians which is available to consult on mental health topics such as Question/ Persuade/Refer suicide prevention program.</p> <p>Expanded School Mental Health counselors work with students in grades K-12 to assist in reducing anxiety and to train school staff in how to recognize suicidal ideation</p>	<p>and protective factors for suicide and suicide ideation warning signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify school-based and community resources</li> <li>• Seek help for either themselves or a friend that might need additional support</li> </ul> <p>Plan activities at the school-level to raise awareness about suicide prevention Through professional development for school counseling staff, participants are taught to help students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase knowledge about depression, symptoms, and to provide facts about suicide</li> </ul>

## Maryland's Youth Suicide Prevention School Program 2014-2015

Local School System	Local School System Coordinator/ Contact	Phone/ Email	Identify Local Program/Grade Level	Does LSS Provide Professional Development/ To Whom?	Briefly Describe Local Prevention Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase their ability to recognize the risk factors and protective factors for suicide and suicide ideation warning signs</li> <li>• Identify school-based and community resources</li> <li>• Seek help for either themselves or a friend that might need additional support</li> </ul> <p>Plan activities at the school-level to raise awareness about suicide prevention</p>
<b>Baltimore County</b>	Tim Hayden, Coordinator, Office of School Counseling	410-887-0291/ thayden@bcps.org	We have several ACT kits to send out to schools as needed	The office of school counseling provides training to the school counselors	Part of our curriculum is getting along with self and others. Proactive activities are second step and character ed programs

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<b>Calvert County</b>	Molly Gearhart	410-535-7246 <a href="mailto:gearhartmo@calvertnet.k12.md.us">gearhartmo@calvertnet.k12.md.us</a>	<u>Suicide Prevention Guidance Unit, grade 7</u> <u>Suicide Prevention Poster Contest</u>	Professional development on suicide intervention procedures is provided to all student services staff by supervisor of student service and all school personnel by student services staff members	Suicide Intervention Procedures Suicide Poster Contest Guidance lessons for all 7 <sup>th</sup> grade students
<b>Caroline County</b>	William Q. Allen	<a href="mailto:bill_allen@mail.cl.k12.md.us">bill_allen@mail.cl.k12.md.us</a>	QPR (K-12)	Counselors and staff	Suicide awareness month activities (poster contests); Health class;
<b>Carroll County</b>	Judy Klinger Supervisor of School Counseling	410-751-3125 <a href="mailto:jakling@carrollk12.org">jakling@carrollk12.org</a>	Lifeline is used in curriculum Additionally, lessons ,groups, and positive social emotional programs for Character Ed and PBIS	Yes, all counselors Yes, all school staff, including teachers, administrators and assistants	All school staff are trained. Recently produced a movie as well as a commercial brochure for parents and families, as a result of the MSSHS grant. Additionally, we have a partnership with the CC YSB for immediate risk assessments for CCPS students
<b>Cecil County</b>	Joanna K. Seiberling	<a href="mailto:jkseiberling@ccps.org">jkseiberling@ccps.org</a> 410-996-5455	Embedded in lessons – guidance program and health MS/HS	PD is provided to all staff members at the start of each school year	1) Staff PD presented by school counselors at all schools. 2) Lessons that include how to seek help, who can help, and local resources provided to all MS/HS students. 3) Brochures available in all guidance offices for

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					students and parents.
<b>Charles County</b>	Mike Blanchard, PsyD Supervising School Psychologist	301-934-7331 mblanchard@ccboe.com	K-12/Mix of QPR/MSDE/DHMH statistics/CCPS policies and procedures	Yes. All CCPS staff	On-line PowerPoint training for all staff at beginning of year/school psychologist/school counselor presentations at school buildings/positive psychology presentations at buildings.
<b>Dorchester County</b>	Zulieka Jarmon-Horsey	410-901-6940	Elementary and secondary	Yes, principals and school counselors, and staff.	Yes, principals and school counselors, and staff.
<b>Frederick County</b>	Janet Shipman	301-644-5220	Individual counseling at all grade levels, brochures provided to students and parents in grades six and nine, health education curriculum in middle and high school.	Yes: annual training is provided for school counselors, student support teachers, school based staff	Safe Schools training Review of FCPS regulation, procedures, documents, providing resources to parents, working with students and parents, working with local mental health agencies
<b>Garrett County</b>					
<b>Harford County</b>	Mary K. Malone	<a href="mailto:kay.malone@hcps.org">kay.malone@hcps.org</a> 410.588.5251	School Counseling K-12	Yes. Suicide Prevention Training occurs in October/ all administrators, school counselors, school psychologists, pupil personnel workers, and school health	Presentations made by school counselors to all staff in all schools at the beginning of the school year. PPT

## Maryland's Youth Suicide Prevention School Program 2014-2015

Local School System	Local School System Coordinator/ Contact	Phone/ Email	Identify Local Program/Grade Level	Does LSS Provide Professional Development/ To Whom?	Briefly Describe Local Prevention Activities
				professionals who are new to their positions or to the system this year.	available on Safe Schools online website.
<b>Howard County</b>	Cynthia Schulmeyer, Ph.D. Coordinator - School Psychology, Home Hospital, Instructional Intervention  Ivan Croft, Ph.D. Resource School Psychologist	410-313-6773  410-313-7343	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCPSS System-wide prevention efforts</li> <li>HCPSS School-based prevention efforts (Staff, Parents, K-12)</li> <li>HCPSS Suicide Intervention Procedures (K-12)</li> </ul> HCPSS Crisis Intervention Procedures (Staff, Parents, K-12)	Yes, PD is provided to Student Services staff, school-based staff (administrative, instructional, and non-instructional), and varying members of school communities.	Prevention efforts within the health and counseling curriculums and school-based programs focus on the reduction of risk factors, development of protective factors, education (warning signs, referral responsibilities, school and community resources, etc.), increasing help-seeking behaviors, staff training, and structured intervention procedures when a student is suspected of being suicidal (including annual training of interventionists).
<b>Kent County</b>	Monica Sipes	410-778-7167 <a href="mailto:msipes@kent.k12.md.us">msipes@kent.k12.md.us</a>	Yellow Ribbon	Yes School counselors, school health professionals, school staff, students	Yellow Ribbon Training, Annual Suicide Prevention & Awareness Week w/ various activities
<b>Montgomery County</b>	Ms. Debra A. Berner Director, Department of Student Services	301-279-3912 <a href="mailto:Debra_Berner@mcpsmd.org">Debra_Berner@mcpsmd.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Red Flags</i> curriculum, Grades 6–12, supported by Mental Health Association of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCPS distributes a memorandum to all school principals at the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Red Flags</i></li> <li>YMHFA</li> <li>SOS (schools are</li> </ul>

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	(DSS)		<p>Montgomery County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCPS-Developed PowerPoint shown to all school-based staff members during preservice week.</li> <li>• Six schools are implementing <i>Sources of Strength (SOS)</i> independently.</li> </ul> <p><i>Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA)</i> trainings are provided throughout the year to approximately 250 MCPS employees who are interested in taking the 8-hour training.</p>	<p>beginning of the year, outlining the training requirements, information to be distributed to school-based staff members, and resources. Principals and their student services staff members (i.e., counselor, psychologist, and pupil personnel worker) provide training to their staff members during preservice week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>YMHFA Kognito</i> online modules</li> </ul>	<p>implementing independently. DSS is looking into resources to bring SOS to more schools.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Kognito</i> online modules</li> </ul> <p>Inter-agency collaboration with Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Association, Montgomery County Public Schools, and Family Services, Inc.</p>
Prince George's County					
Queen Anne's County	Brad Engel	410-739-8971 Brad.engel@qacps.org	Yellow Ribbon; ASIST and Safetalk grades 6-12	Yes. To counselors, school psychologists, PPW's and teachers	Students are provided a "training" on a yearly basis regarding how to recognize suicidal behavior and how and where to seek help using the Yellow Ribbon Card/Program. Counselors and School Psychologists trained in ASIST and select school staff and students trained

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					in SafeTalk.
<b>St. Mary's County</b>	Rhonda Harris	301-475-5511 ext. 32199 rlharris@smcps.org	Grades 6 – 12	Yes. School Counselors received related professional development periodically.	Classroom presentations and delivery of suicide prevention cards with suicide hotline numbers listed.
<b>Somerset County</b>	Renee U. McLaughlin/Tracey Cottman	410-621-6269/rmclaughlin@somerset.kk12.md.us/410-621-6239/tcottman@somerset.kk12.md.us		Yes, we utilize the Safe Schools Website to provide refresher training to staff annually.	Staff Training utilizing the Safe Schools Website (MABE); School Counselors conduct individual and group counseling; Partnership with community based mental health partners; PBIS initiative
<b>Talbot County</b>	Rob Schmidt, Ed.D, LCPC, NCC	410-822-0330	<u>Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program: grades 6-12/community</u>	Provide Professional Development to School Staff on Signs & Symptoms of Depression and Suicide ; Suicide Assessment Training using the Risk Identification Suicide Kit (RISK)	Bus Drivers, Teacher/Students(s) grades 6-12, Community Mental Health Staff
<b>Washington County</b>	Robin Handler	301 766 2966 <u>Handrob@wcps.k12.md.us</u>		All Washington County teachers and staff receive training at the beginning of the school year (Suicide prevention power point).	Health /Life Skills Classes receive information.
<b>Wicomico County</b>	Cynthia Waters	410) 677-4594 cwaters@wcooe.org	Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program (YRSPP)	Yes. School administrators, Student Advisors, Guidance Counselors, Nurses.	Professional Development for school personnel as needed and

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					requested by school administrators. E-mail is sent to county employees regarding suicide prevention every other month. YRSPP Train-the-Trainer for Student Advisors. Suicide Prevention Discussion Board via SharePoint was piloted this year for Suicide Prevention Committee members when we are unable to meet face-to-face. Pupil Personnel Workers (PPWs) and Student Advisors (SA) present YRSPP to students in middle and high school Health Classes in the Fall and Spring
<b>Worcester County</b>	L. Eloise Henry-Gordy	L. Eloise Henry-Gordy		ASIST	
<b>Seed School</b>	The SEED School of Maryland/Director of Student Support	410-843-9477 EXT 206	<u>Grades 6-12</u>	Yes, SEED Staff	Prevention Groups, Individual Counseling, Clothesline Project