

Maine Suicide Prevention Program

LD 609: “An Act to Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools” Frequently Asked Questions

LD 609 was signed into Law by Governor Paul LePage on April 25, 2013 following unanimous passage in the legislature. The law requires all public school staff in Maine to complete Suicide Prevention Awareness Training and requires all school districts to have at least two staff trained as suicide prevention Gatekeepers. Over the coming months, the Maine Department of Education (DOE), working with other partners, is expected to develop standards to guide and inform the implementation of this law.

Who needs to attend the Awareness Training?

All school personnel and anyone receiving a check from a public school as a regular staff must receive Suicide Prevention Awareness Training. This includes: administrators, teachers, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, duty monitors, coaches, and cafeteria workers. It is recommended that volunteers working in schools receive the training.

What is the timeframe for schools to complete initial training?

Training will occur incrementally starting 2014 through 2016. High schools are expected to complete training by the start of the 2014-15 school year and middle and elementary schools by the start of the 2015-16 school year.

Who can train the staff?

The Maine Suicide Prevention Program provides training to individuals who have taken Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper in order to be able to provide the Awareness Training. The Training of Trainers is offered around the state at a variety of locations. Once a person has taken this training and shows competence they are able to provide the Awareness Training to fulfill LD 609. The Maine Suicide Prevention Program will develop an online version of the Awareness Training in the coming year.

The DOE will post information of other acceptable trainings on their website.

How many people need to be Gatekeeper trained?

Each school administrative unit will be required to have a minimum of two personnel trained as Suicide Prevention Gatekeepers. For school administrative units with more than 1000 students, for every additional 500 students an additional Gatekeeper will be needed.

How long is training valid?

Both trainings need to be renewed every five years. New hires need to receive awareness education within six months of hire.

If I have already attended a Suicide Awareness Training, what should I do?

It is anticipated that school personnel who have received suicide awareness education or who have completed Gatekeeper training within the past few years will be considered in compliance with the law. Check the standards when they are completed.

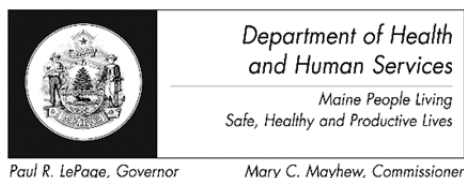
Is there funding available to help with the cost of training?

At this time trainings offered through the Maine Suicide Prevention Program are free for participants. A listing of some additional trainings specifically for school staff is available here: <https://namimaine.site-ym.com/?page=TrainingCalendar> .

Who does the school district report to?

School Districts are required to track the training of staff and keep clear records. Compliance to the law will be monitored by the Maine Department of Education as part of school approval reporting.

If you have more questions about the law and its implementation, contact the Department of Education (207) 624-6600. For information about specific training programs, contact Shelley O’Brian, sobrian@namimaine.org, at NAMI Maine 1-800-464-5767 or 207-622-5767. Information on MSPP training opportunities can be found at <http://www.ccsme.org/train/suicideprevention>. A schedule of school staff specific trainings is available at <https://namimaine.site-ym.com/?page=TrainingCalendar>.



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