

## MSGIA Student Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training

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The MSGIA staff closely monitored HB374 as it moved through the legislature this past session. This bill relates to bringing greater awareness and resources to Montana public school employees in the area of student suicide awareness and prevention.

The final version of the bill signed into law on April 29, 2015, recommends that school districts provide 2 hours of training in this area at least once every 5 years for staff working directly with students. OPI was charged with the development of training and awareness materials on the topic to be made available to our public schools.

Recognizing that there is in consequence of this bill a need for a risk-management training program in the area of suicide awareness and prevention, the MSGIA has contracted with an on-line service to provide specific courses on this topic and others. Safe Schools offers two such courses on the topic of Suicide Awareness and Prevention, one for 26 minutes (with additional time allocated for self-discussion and application concepts by the participants, which brings the total instruction time in this instance to 60 minutes) and another more comprehensive course lasting 2 hours. MSGIA makes these courses available to any employee who works for a MSGIA member currently enrolled in our property and liability self-insured pool. As an added incentive for the certified staff of our PC pool, MTSBA as the facilitator for this course offering is offering Certificate Renewal credits that can be earned for Professional Development Activities. To request these for your staff who have completed this course, please contact your district's Risk Management Associate.

If you are an MSGIA property and liability pool member, this is a great resource to let your certified staff know about and, truly, for any staff whom you believe would benefit from this important training.

If you have not already contacted your MSGIA risk manager to get set up on Safe Schools, please do so today as there is no charge for MSGIA members. MSGIA members enrolled in only the Workers Compensation pool will have access to 12 specific courses-to-workplace safety topics; and members in both MSGIA pool's will have access to over 300 courses, including the suicide awareness and prevention courses. The Safe Schools staff will work directly with you or your school-district designated representative to get your employees loaded into the training system so that they can start their training process as soon as possible.

In addition to the benefits of this great course, the Safe Schools platform can be the place to track all of the trainings taken by your staff during the school year. By providing you one place to keep all of this important employee training data, this platform allows you to record and track the completions of other trainings not offered through the Safe Schools on-line training site. Talk to your MSGIA School Risk Manager today if you would like more information about how to utilize this new service brought to you by your trusted risk management partner, the MSGIA.