

# New Suicide Prevention Training Course for School Mental Health Professionals



## Partnership Overview

School mental health professionals are critical components of comprehensive school safety, often serving as the first health care providers to identify at-risk children and adolescents. Yet, their role is frequently overlooked in school-based safety planning, including suicide prevention, an essential element of any effective school safety strategy.

This is particularly concerning in light of suicide risk factors and mental health challenges among children and adolescents. In Arizona, nearly 25% of students report that they seriously considered attempting suicide during the previous year; 10% report that they made an actual attempt ([Arizona Department of Health Services, 2021](#)).

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To meet this growing need, [The Jed Foundation \(JED\)](#) collaborated with the [Arizona Department of Education \(ADE\)](#) to co-design this course for Arizona school mental health professionals to support the identification, screening, and referral of students at-risk for suicide. This course is designed for school-based mental health professionals in Arizona — including counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses — and is also available to all school personnel seeking to fulfill the legislative requirements of the Mitch Warnock Act ([ARS 15-120](#)).

## Why This Course Is Needed

Suicide rates among children and adolescents have continued to rise over the past decade. Suicide is the [second leading cause of death](#) among young people ages 12 to 24. In Arizona, [nearly 25% of students report that they seriously considered attempting suicide during the previous year; 10% report that they made an actual attempt](#).

## About the Course

This two-hour, eight-module online course focuses on enhancing the identification, screening, and referral skills of school mental health professionals for students at risk of suicide. The course uses scenario-based learning to provide practical applications of the skills. The training also integrates concepts around suicide screening, assessment, and safety planning to help school mental health professionals effectively evaluate students who may be at risk of suicide.

## Technical Support

For any technical support or questions, please fill out the [JED Support Request form](#).

## How To Access The Course

To get started, please register using your school email address via the link below.

[Register Here!](#)

