

# PA Act 71 - Legislation regarding suicide prevention awareness and child exploitation.

(see [www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Safe%20Schools/Pages/Act-71.aspx#.VZVUYU3JDIV](http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Safe%20Schools/Pages/Act-71.aspx#.VZVUYU3JDIV))

On June 26, 2014, Act 71 was signed into law in Pennsylvania.

This law, which added section 1526 of the School Code, 24 PS § 15-1526, specifically requires school entities to: (1) adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy; and (2) provide ongoing professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention for professional educators in building serving students in grades 6-12. Additionally, section 1526 specifically permits school entities to incorporate curriculum on this topic into their instructional programs pursuant to their youth suicide awareness and prevention policies.

Act 71 of 2014 also added section 1527 of the School Code, 24 PS § 15-1527. Section 1527 permits school entities to provide age-appropriate instruction regarding child exploitation for students in grades K-8. If a school entity provides this instruction to its students, the school entity must provide professional development related to child exploitation awareness to those educators assigned to teach courses into which child exploitation awareness education has been incorporated.

## SECTION 1526: Suicide Awareness/ Prevention Education: Guidelines & Educational Materials

**Note:** Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school entity shall:

(1) Adopt an age-appropriate youth suicide awareness and prevention policy and (2) Include in its professional development plan submitted to the secretary for approval pursuant to section 1205.1 four (4) hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention every five (5) years for professional educators in school buildings serving students in grades six through twelve.

Student Programs/Resources:

[More Than Sad Program](#)  
[American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)  
[Plan, Prepare, Prevent: The SOS Signs of Suicide®](#)

Professional Development

[Plan, Prepare, Prevent: The SOS Signs of Suicide® Online Gatekeeper Training](#)  
[Kognito At-Risk for High School Educators](#)  
[Youth Mental Health First Aid](#)  
[Making Educators Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention](#)  
[ASK about Suicide to Save a Life](#)  
[More Than Sad: Suicide Prevention Education for Teachers and Other School Personnel](#)  
[PREPaRE School Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training Curriculum \(2nd Edition\)](#)  
[QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention: QPR \(Question, Persuade, and Refer\)](#)  
[Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention](#)  
[Be A Link](#)  
[Wisconsin Gatekeeper Online training](#)

General Resources

[PA Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative](#)  
[Pennsylvania Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)  
[American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)  
[Services for Teens At Risk \(STAR Center\)](#)  
[The Trevor Project](#)

School Resources

[Youth Suicide Prevention School Based Guide  
Toolkit for High Schools](#)

**SECTION 1527: Child Exploitation Awareness Education: Guidelines & Suggested Resources**

**Note:** Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school entity may:

- (1) Develop an **age-appropriate child exploitation awareness education program** and incorporate such program into the school entity's existing curriculum for **students in kindergarten through grade eight**; and
- (2) Include **training in child exploitation awareness in its professional development plan** submitted by to the secretary for approval pursuant to section 1205.1; provided that a school entity shall provide **four (4) hours of such training every five (5) years** for professional educators assigned to teach courses into which child exploitation awareness education has been incorporated.

Model Curriculums

[Safer Smarter Kids  
Care for Kids](#)

Resources

[Erin's Law](#)

Professional Development/Teacher Training Guidelines and Education Materials

[Guidelines for prevention programs \(adults\)](#) (PDF)  
[Guidelines for prevention programs \(children\)](#) (PDF)

[Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Information Packet](#)  
[Child Lure](#)  
[KidzSmartz](#)  
[Be Safe At Last: Safe@Last](#) ®

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