



Safety & Mental Health in Oregon Schools



WE BELIEVE

Every student should have access to an education that makes them feel **safe, welcomed, and embraced** by their peers and their community.

Creating a positive school climate, centered around student mental health and well-being, is essential to that goal.

CARE & CONNECTION

The ODE **Care and Connection** program stresses the importance of **building safe, supportive relationships in school communities** and creating welcoming spaces for students, families and staff; this campaign focuses on creating daily time and space for staff, educators, and students to build care, connection and community.

PROTECTING OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Families deserve to know our kids will be safe when we drop them off to learn. While Oregon has many protections in place and several new efforts are underway, **there is more we can do to ensure student and staff safety.**

SAFETY & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

SafeOregon Tip Line

- Works to prevent real-time violence.
- **Free for schools to use!** 1,248 schools participating.
- Anonymous tips can be submitted via email, phone calls, text, mobile app and web portal.
- Developed by the [Oregon Task Force on School Safety](#) and administered by the Oregon State Police.

Statewide School Safety and Emergency Management

- Designed to support the development of **emergency operations plans** in schools to improve safety and security for students, this program includes the implementation of comprehensive threat assessment systems that can **identify threats of violence**, organize resources to address those threats, and **maintain psychological safety** in the school community. Emergency management consultants, through partner Education Service Districts, are available across the state to help schools **plan for targeted violence** or any disaster.
- Created by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) using limited federal funds secured by ODE; resources will be necessary to ensure these services continue beyond this grant.

School Safety and Prevention System

- Funded by the Student Success Act, the system is designed to provide school districts with a **multi-tiered system of supports** from curriculum-based prevention programs to safety-based crisis interventions in partnership with SafeOregon Tip Line.
- Includes suicide prevention supports, **behavioral safety assessments** (commonly known as threat assessments), as well as positive school culture and climate initiatives that work to prevent bullying and to promote mental health and well-being in school districts statewide.

EVERY STUDENT BELONGS IN OUR SCHOOLS

ODE wrote [updated guidance](#) to assist school districts in identifying bias based inappropriate behaviors as well as a [Bias Incident Response Guide](#) which provides districts a transformative approach to responding to incidents of bias.



EMPHASIZING STRENGTHS, RESILIENCE, AND ENHANCING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL ABILITIES

ODE created the [Integrated Mental Health Model](#) and [Mental Health Toolkit](#) in partnership with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and compiled a library of [mental health resources](#) for students, families, and educators.

Designed to aid staff, students and caregivers with mental health-related tools centered within a continuum of care that meets each person's needs for physical and emotional safety, security, social connection, identity, diversity, and purpose.

SAVING LIVES THROUGH PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and ODE have partnered on **suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention** that fits into a system of supports via Lines for Life and the Oregon **YouthLine**. This also includes resources for comprehensive district Student Suicide Prevention Plans required by Adi's Act as well as no cost training, curricula, and services through OHA's Big River programs.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/ode

STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH IN EDUCATION (SMHIE)

This grant-funded program addresses the considerable need for a robust, **community-driven, linguistically, and culturally responsive behavioral health infrastructure** in Oregon school communities, in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and the University of Oregon College of Education, Center on Human Development.

The initiative consists of 3 primary components:

- (1) **Increasing mental health literacy** via a digital learning educational program and accompanying resources;
- (2) Developing and deploying **credentialed, behavioral health courses** and professional learning communities; and
- (3) Co-designing and implementing a **Community Care project (CCP)** to enhance behavioral health infrastructure in 4 school districts that represent the racial/ethnic, linguistic, geographic, and socio-demographic diversity of Oregon's school communities.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

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