

THE

SAFETY

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Office of Continuous Improvement & Support Division of Student Success Student Engagement & Support Branch

March 2019

Safe Schools Report Released

The [2017-2018 Safe Schools Annual Statistical Report](#) has been released. This summary report of school safety data is required by [KRS 158.444](#) and assists in identifying areas for improvement and possible next steps for the department to take to begin addressing the needs of students with challenging behaviors. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improvement of the report. Please contact [Victoria Fields](#) at (502) 564-4772, ext. 4015 with questions or comments.

Are You Prepared to Respond?

By Karen Bush, Kentucky AWARE Project Training Coordinator, KDE

A young person you know may be experiencing a mental health crisis. Become a Youth Mental Health First-Aider today and be prepared to respond! Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses are FREE through Kentucky Department of Education's Project AWARE Initiative (Advancing Wellness & Resilience in Education).

[Youth Mental Health First Aid \(YMHFA\)](#) is a federally recognized, evidence-based, public education prevention tool that improves knowledge of mental health problems and connects people with appropriate professional, peer, social or self-help care. The course teaches a five-step action plan to offer initial help to young people showing signs of a mental illness or is in a mental health crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed for adults who work with youth (ages 12-18). This training will benefit those in roles such as teachers, coaches, leaders of faith communities and other caring citizens who do not have prior backgrounds as mental health professionals.

This 6-hour training gives educators who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents (ages 12-18) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help them connect to the appropriate care. Additionally, an 8-hour session is available for interested community groups who work with youth.

Participants in the YMHFA course learn by getting in the material and relating what is learned to real life applications. Discussion topics and other activities keep you engaged in the course, and learners are given opportunities to practice helping skills. One or two instructors lead the class, with 30 or less participants, following a national curriculum and teaching standards, while emphasizing hope for recovery. For more information, please contact YMHFAinfo@education.ky.gov.

Feedback from recent Kentucky YMHFA Trainings:

“Outstanding. This should be mandatory training for high school parents and students.”

“The course was intense with heavy information, but I feel very prepared to better assist the youth in my school.”



Safety Briefs

School Safety App: Site Assess

[The U.S. Department of Education](#) has created [Site Assess](#) which is a FREE, secure mobile app designed to allow school personnel to walk around buildings and grounds to examine their safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness. This dynamic app allows users to coordinate team members in developing a to-do list that may be used to address facility improvements and to share pertinent information with first responders. The app will:

- Capture images within and upload images directly into the app;
- Provide critical information about potential threats and hazards;
- Allow teams to add customized questions to and delete preloaded questions from the site assessment
- Export data into a Word document or Excel worksheet for data aggregation and analysis;
- Complement and support mitigation, prevention, protection, recovery and response activities.

An [archived webinar](#) provides an overview of the app which includes its structure, design, and features. The presenters also provide step-by-step instructions on how site assessment teams may use the app.

New Resource: Addressing Opioid Emergencies Fact Sheet

Opioid overdose deaths among children and teenagers have tripled since 1999, according to a recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [research article](#), indicating that opioid abuse and misuse continue to be a problem for schools. To help the educational community address such an emergency, the [REMS TA Center](#) has released a fact sheet on [Preparing for Opioid-Related Emergencies for K-12 Schools and Institutions of Higher Education](#). The fact sheet describes how prescription opioids can be misused or abused and how K-12 schools can be affected, details how to plan for opioid-related emergencies, shares activities to help prevent, protect from, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from opioid emergencies, and lists additional resources.

Updated Toolkit

[After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools](#) assists schools in implementing a coordinated response to the suicide death of a student. Originally developed in 2011, the second edition includes new information and tools that middle and high schools can use to help the school community cope and reduce suicide risk. The toolkit was developed in collaboration with the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#) and in consultation with national experts, including school-based administrators and staff, clinicians, researchers, and crisis response professionals. Highlights of the second edition include updated information on such topics as memorialization, social media and contagion. The kit also contains updated resource lists and new examples of how different communities have addressed specific issues in responding to a suicide death.

Save the Date – 2019 Persistence to Graduation Summit

The Division of Student Success will be hosting the 2019 Persistence to Graduation Summit July 9-10 at the Lexington Convention Center. Strands will include well-rounded educational opportunities, safe and supportive learning environments, effective use of technology, student transition and reengagement strategies, alternative education, and community partnerships. Registration will open in the spring, and costs will be covered by the Title IV, Part A state activities funds.

Your Safe Schools Team:

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