

The Valley View

LICKING VALLEY
LOCAL SCHOOLS

David Hile, Superintendent

DECEMBER 2016

Volume 11, Issue 5

Ohio's State Testing Accountability System

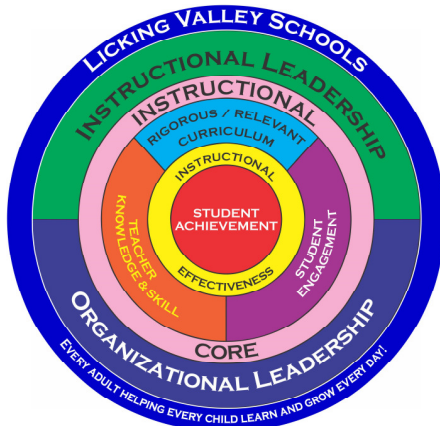
By David Hile, Superintendent Licking Valley Local Schools

I was recently asked by John Haswell, Superintendent at Shadyside, to share my views on the graduation point issue with Nancy Hollister, State School Board Member, who sought his views. Below is my response.

Dear Mrs. Hollister,

I have many, many issues with Ohio's state testing accountability system, from invalid, unreliable assessments that recently have changed 3 times in 3 years, to the use of these invalid, unreliable test scores being used to rate our teachers, principals and school districts. But for the specific issue immediately before us, using an assessment to determine whether an Ohio high school senior gets a diploma or not, here is my greatest concern: the 13 years a child spends in our school districts counts for absolutely ZERO, only passing the tests matter in terms of whether a student graduates or not. If that's the case, why even have a public K-12 system. Why not just give students tests every year until they either pass them by a certain age or not to determine who gets a diploma?

I told this story to the State Board earlier in November when my high school principal, Wes Weaver, and I broached the issue confronting our students as a result of the 18 point graduation system that was arbitrarily developed and imposed by the State Board. Back in 2008, under the OGT, we had a student in our district, I'll call her Stacey, who was an average student, she came to school every day, she did all of her school work and she passed her classes for 13 years at Licking Valley. She was on the basketball team, the softball team and in the choir. By all accounts she was a good kid and good student. She met all of Licking Valley's graduation requirements, which are significantly higher than state minimums but for the life of her she couldn't pass some of the OGTs. As a result, she did not get a high school diploma and to this day does not have a diploma. Her twin sister, on the other hand, who had an IEP and was thus exempted from the consequences of failing the OGTs, graduated that same spring. Imagine the phone call from me, the high school principal at the time, and her mother. Imagine the embarrassment foisted upon that family that graduation day! Where is Stacey? Why isn't she at graduation with Tasha?



No test, or set of tests, no one data point, should erase 13 years of a child's life and 13 years of schooling! No statistician or researcher accepts one data point to substantiate a claim of validity. Somehow, a child's 13 years of formal education has to count for something when we decide whether or not they get a diploma. Researchers and scientists demand triangulation of data, at least 3 data points, to establish validity. We need to create a system that weights, and not necessarily equally, a child's 13 year schooling body of work, i.e., a portfolio of their K-12 learning experiences, their high school transcripts and the assessments.

2017 8TH GRADE GETTYSBURG/ WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

The first deposit of \$150.00 per person was due November 10, 2016. If you did not get a payment in it is not too late. Please get a payment in as soon as possible and make checks payable to LVMS. The dates of the trip are May 7, 8, 9, and 10, 2017. If you are going as a chaperone, please contact Laura Lahmers at the district office 740-763-2911 to confirm your fingerprint status. There is also information and an adult emergency medical form needed for all adults attending trip found on Mr. Hageman's web page at hagemanhistory.weebly.com. If you have any questions please call or email Mr. Hageman at 740-763-3396 or hagemanm@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us

Students applying to be a wreath bearer at the Tomb of the Unknowns can find the application on Mr. Hageman's web page.

LICKING VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE

1379 Licking Valley Rd. NE
Newark, OH 43055
740-763-3525
David Hile, Superintendent
Jo Lynn Torbert, Treasurer

LICKING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

100 Hainsview Dr. NE
Newark, OH 43055
740-763-3721
Wes Weaver, Principal
Shane Adkins, Assistant Principal

LICKING VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

1379 Licking Valley Rd. NE
Newark, OH 43055
740-763-3396

LICKING VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1510 Licking Valley Rd. NE
Newark, OH 43055

PRIMARY

740-763-2865
Todd Carmer, Principal
Angela Harrison, Assistant Principal

INTERMEDIATE

740-763-2031
Sherry Crum, Principal
Angela Harrison, Assistant Principal

LICKING VALLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lucinda Wills, President
Mary Kay Martin, Vice President
Jackie Caughenbaugh, Board Member
Kim Christian, Board Member
Shawn Shumaker, Board Member



LV High School and Middle School Leo Clubs

In October, the Licking Valley Lions Club along with the high school and middle school Leo Clubs worked together to complete various service projects for World Service Day. Teams of workers were sent out to six different

locations in our community. They mulched, weeded, cut down trees, trimmed, raked and much more! The consensus was that this was a wonderful morning spent together helping others. If you know of someone in need within the community, please contact a member of the Lions Club or Leo Club as there are plans to do more service days in the future. The motto of the Lions Club is "We Serve" and that's just what they did.



Lunch Charges

Because we never want to see any child go hungry Licking Valley Local Schools allows students to charge their lunch (we do not offer an alternate). The cafeteria does allow charging, but we would prefer that a student's account be prepaid or paid on the day of purchase. You can apply money online by going to www.EZPay.com, or you can send money to school with your child (ren).

We have set the following procedures in place to try to keep charges from going into the "Excessive Charge" range.

- ◆ When a child's account is in the negative \$2.00 (Primary), \$5.00 (Intermediate), or \$2.25 (Middle School) Leader Alerts are extracted from our NutriKids System and calls (e-mails) are sent once a week.
- ◆ Calls and e-mails are made by the Food Service Director, Jan Jennings, when an account reaches \$5 in charges.
- ◆ A letter is mailed (with a free/reduced application) when an account goes into the negative \$20 and is turned over to the Principal's office for collection.
- ◆ At \$40 the account is, once again, turned over to the Principal's office for collection.
- ◆ When the account reaches \$60 in charges it is turned over to the District Office.



(Leader Alerts are continuously being sent weekly during these steps)

When you receive a Leader Alert, please contact Jan Jennings (740) 763-2433 if you have questions. A "Call Result" report is sent following the Leader Alert. If a number is listed as "Disconnected" or "Other" the school secretary is contacted for verification of e-mail or telephone number. Please keep this information updated with your school secretary.

Free/Reduced application can be completed online by going to www.school lunchapp.com or you can request a paper application be sent home with your child.

- Licking Valley Athletic schedules can be found at:
<http://lickingvalleyathletics.com>
- The Licking Valley Board of Education meets the 2nd Monday of each month in the high school media center at 6:00 P.M.
- NO SCHOOL Christmas Break - December 22, 2016 thru January 2, 2017
 - ◆ *Middle School Winter Concert Dec. 6th LVMS Gym 7:00 pm*
 - ◆ *High School Winter Concert Dec. 8th LVHS Auditorium 7:00 pm*
 - ◆ *First Grade Christmas Program
Tuesday, Dec 13th LVHS Auditorium 7:00 pm*
 - ◆ *Second Grade Christmas Program
Thursday, Dec 15th LVHS Auditorium 7:00 pm*
- ◆ *Primary Holiday Parties Tuesday December 20th 9:30 am - 10:30 am*
- NO SCHOOL January 13, 2017
- NO SCHOOL January 16, 2017





Let us help you get
your child...

READY!



Classes for LV Parents
with Infants,
Toddlers
& Preschoolers

Licking Valley Parents/Caregivers Register for Classes NOW!

By attending class you will receive:

- * **TRAINING** on how children learn and grow!
- * **FREE BOOKS** to help with learning!
- * **FREE "TOOLS"/ TOYS** to make learning fun!
- * **FREE CHILDCARE** for children 12 months or older while you attend classes

(Note: Parents/Caregivers in the 0-1 class may bring their infant to class)



WINTER CLASS DATE:
Saturday
January 28, 2017
February 4 (Snow Date)

Babies and toddlers are born learning.
Getting ready for school starts at birth!

Classes will be held at:
LV Primary Elementary School,
1510 Licking Valley Rd. NE, Newark

Class Time Schedule:

- 9:30-10:00 - Orientation for first time parents
(Materials will be distributed)
10:00 - 11:30 **READY!** Classes for all parents



Register for Classes by Calling: 763-3525

If you have any questions, email us at:
ready4k@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us



The Valley Bots are Pulling for Bats

On October 26th The Valley Bots team members, families, students, Licking Valley teacher Mrs. Smith, and staff from The Works, joined together to improve the Licking Valley School Property's bat habitat. In conjunction with Bat Conservation International, The Valley Bots hosted a "Pulling for Bats" event where people gathered to pull invasive plants to improve bat habitats.

The Valley Bots First LEGO League team is composed of Licking Valley students Justin Higgins, Job Busic, and Sam Busic. This team is one of the two Licking Valley First LEGO League teams sponsored by The Works and Licking Valley Schools.

Each year the First LEGO League presents a new challenge to teams worldwide, and this year's theme is Animal Allies. The Valley Bots selected bats to investigate and work on improving a solution to decreasing bat populations.

Two of Ohio species of bats, the Indiana Bat and the Northern Long Eared Bat, are endangered. The other nine species of bats in Ohio are species of concern. Bats control insect pests that carry diseases and destroy crops here in Ohio. Some key reasons for the decline in bat population include White-nose Syndrome, habitat alterations, and pesticide use.

The team's goal has been to educate the Licking Valley Community about the importance of bats to our ecosystem, how bats are rapidly decreasing in population, and how people can help bats. The team has worked with Superintendent Mr. Hile and FFA advisor Mr. Ellis to certify the school's property as a bat habitat, by pulling invasive plants, and mounting a bat box on the land.

The team will compete on December 10th presenting their project and participating in robotics and team challenges.

YOU CAN HELP BATS!

1. Protect the habitats that bats roost in during the spring, summer, and fall. Don't cut down trees during these seasons that might have bats roosting, pull invasive plants, allow native plants to grow, and limit or don't use pesticides and chemical sprays.
2. Provide man made roost sights – Bat Boxes. With less trees to roost in, bat boxes can provide important places for bats to roost in the spring and summer, when they are raising young.
3. Stay out of places where bats hibernate and support research for White-nose Syndrome. White-nose Syndrome is a fungus that started in 2006 and continues to spread across the US.
4. Learn about bats and teach others.



LV MARCHING PANTHERS TO REPRESENT OHIO IN DC

The Licking Valley Marching Band has been selected by Governor John Kasich to represent the State of Ohio in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. Approximately 100 LV music students will travel to DC, leaving immediately after graduation ceremonies on May 28, and arriving on Memorial Day in time to march down Constitution Avenue in front of a street audience of several hundred thousand spectators.

The parade, which travels alongside the National Mall, consists of musical ensembles from each branch of the military, invited bands from every state in America, veterans' groups, military and specialty units, floats and VIPs. It will be broadcast on Discovery's Military Channel and worldwide to American troops. "This is probably one of the more exciting things that our music students will ever get to do," said Band Director Sean Bradley. "Participating in a national event that honors our country's heroes is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these kids."

The LV Marching Band has been very successful over the past years, earning a Superior rating at the Ohio Music Education Association State Finals competition for four years in a row. This year the band placed sixth in their class at Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, IN, and was the Class A Champion at the BOA Regional Competition in Monroeville, PA, and the BOA Regional Competition in Winston-Salem, NC. The marching band has been undefeated in OMEA Class B competition for the past five years.

The band will prepare for the big day by rehearsing music and practicing marching in early spring. Students need to raise around \$50,000 to pay for buses and housing while they are in DC. Some local businesses have made donations to help the band meet its goal and the Music Boosters are currently selling Wilson's Garden Center gift cards to help fund the trip. More fundraisers are being planned, and information about how the community can help will be coming shortly.





Need Ideas?

A Wilson's Garden Center gift card makes a great Christmas gift!

... And your purchase will help the LV Marching Band raise funds to perform in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC



Drop off your completed form and payment **NO LATER THAN DEC. 13** in the High School or Middle School office or mail to:

Licking Valley Music Boosters, 100 Hainsview Drive NE, Newark, OH 43055

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

of cards _____ x \$25 = _____ Amount Due

Please make checks payable to:
Licking Valley Music Boosters

Thank You for Your Support -- Questions? email: lvbands@gmail.com

The Robotic Panthers received 1st place (Champions) at a regional FLL tournament in Granville on November 19th. Competing against 11 other teams throughout the central Ohio area, the Robotic Panthers presented a project on this year's theme, "Improving animal/ human interaction", showed their teamwork skills through a team-building activity and competed with their Lego robot; designed and programmed to complete different tasks.



The Robotic Panthers is a *FIRST* Lego League team of Licking Valley students sponsored by The Works receiving partial financial support from AEP. Team members include Emma Chapman (8th grade), John Chapman (7th grade), Nicholas Foltz (5th grade), Henry Shaw (5th grade), Jacey Nethers (4th grade), and Elsa Shaw (4th grade). Coaches are Eric Shaw and David Chapman with parent help from Yew Lin Foltz and Chris Nethers.

Their 1st place finish qualified the team to a District Tournament at OSU-N on January 7th. Licking Valley has another Works sponsored team called The Valley Bots. Their regional tournament is in Newark on December 3rd.

Licking Valley Local School District

The Licking Valley Local School District is currently seeking individuals for the following positions:



Custodial: On-call subs with possible future daily position. Interested candidates should complete the www.ohreap.net application and e-mail Jack Shinn, **Custodial Maintenance Supervisor** at shinnj@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us



Bus Driver: On-call subs with possible future daily position. Interested candidates should complete the www.ohreap.net application and e-mail Mickie Archer, **Transportation Supervisor** at archerm@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us



Food Service: On-call subs with possible future daily position. Interested candidates should complete the www.ohreap.net application and e-mail Jan Jennings, **Food Service Supervisor** at jenningsj@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us



Educational Aide: On-call subs with possible future daily position. Interested candidates should complete the www.ohreap.net application and e-mail Laura Lahmers, District Secretary at lahmersl@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us

For more information, applicants can call the Licking Valley District Office at 740-763-3525 and ask for Jack Shinn, Maintenance Supervisor, Mickie Archer, Transportation Supervisor, Jan Jennings, Food Service Supervisor, or Laura Lahmers, District Secretary.

Santa Cocoa House



December 7th

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. staff

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Community

Join us for an evening of fun
with Santa at the LV High School Library!

Activities include:

- Story Time
- Make a Craft
- Picture with Santa
- Letter to Santa
- Snacks, coloring and more!



Please bring a canned good for a local pantry, a snack to share
and a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope.

Contact Tracy to register at 740-763-3551

DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

AGAIN THIS YEAR THE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY WILL COLLECT NEW BOOKS TO DONATE TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS

AREA OF HIGH NEED: BOARD BOOKS, PUZZLE BOOKS, COLORING BOOKS & 24-PACK CRAYONS.

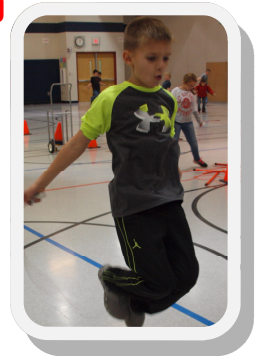


DROP OFF IN ELEMENTARY LIBRARY:
NOV. 29TH – DEC 7TH



All K - 5 Physical Education classes have been participating in activities

for Jump Rope for Heart and collecting donations. Students are continuing to collect donations through Nov. 30th. This is a service learning project that teaches students the importance of helping others as well as taking care of their own heart health.



Join us!

Licking Valley will be hosting our first **Regional FIRST Lego League (FLL)** tournament on December 17, 2016. Twelve Licking County teams of 4th through 8th graders will be competing in this tournament.



We invite all Licking Valley students to see what FLL is all about! Watch as the competing team's Lego creation comes to life and completes various missions. If you are interested in

knowing more about FLL, our Licking Valley teams will be onsite for questions.

Event Information

Date: December 17, 2016

Location: Licking Valley Elementary School

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Schedule

1:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony
1:30 p.m.	Robot Competition
3:45 p.m.	Closing Ceremony

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at LVLS.FLL@gmail.com.

LV Intermediate School Renaissance

program had a three day fund raiser November 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Students were able to pay \$1 per day to participate in each activity which included Hat Day, Superhero Day and Pajama Day. All donated money goes toward purchasing additional indoor recess materials. Thank you to those who participated and donated toward this cause.



Licking Valley Middle School presents



Date: December 15th and 16th

Time: 7:00 pm

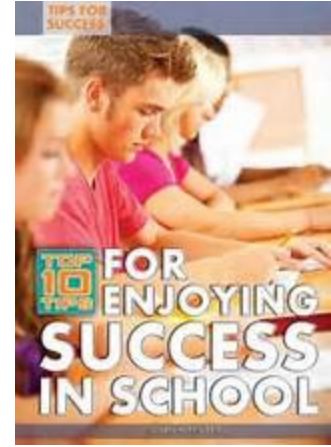
Where: Middle School Gym

Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the door.

Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Ten Tips for School Success

(www.understandingspecialeducation.com)



1. **Know Your School.** Explore the district web page, read the calendar, put important dates and events on your schedule. Attend conferences and visit your child's classroom. Know how your school measures student success.
2. **Know Your Child's Teacher(s).** Introduce yourself. Read the syllabus for each class along with rules and expectations. Share your email and contact numbers. Target the classes your child may have difficulty in and let the teacher know you would like to hear from them.
3. **Set Up A Regular Homework Time.** This should be a time ranging from around 30 minutes to an hour and a half. Homework time should be consistent and not disturbed by television or other activity.
4. **Help Your Child With Organization.** Missing assignments have a major impact on school success. Go through your child's backpack each night. Create subject folders to keep work in. Use an agenda book or calendar to keep track of assignment due dates.
5. **Don't Believe Everything You Hear.** Kids naturally will tell us what we want to hear. Ask your child's teacher about the homework load and schedule. What does the teacher view as an important component to school success? Ask for a weekly email to keep up to date on progress.
6. **Be Involved In Your Child's Learning.** Take the time to talk to your child about their learning. Link family activities to academic subjects. Have dinner conversations about current events and ask your child's opinion.
7. **Know Your Child's Friends.** Their friends may impact their school performance. Do their friends value school performance? Talk about expectations and values. Let them know what is acceptable and what is not.
8. **Understand Progress Reports, Grading, Testing, and Credits.** Try to understand how your child will be assessed at every level of their education. Know when to expect grades and report cards. During high school, understand how credits and state testing help determine graduation. Know the difference between required courses and electives. Look into college requirements. Does the district have a program for credit recovery if needed?
9. **Use Your School's Resources.** What resources are available if your child is struggling? Meet with the school counselor to discuss options. Ask about community resources that have programs that may benefit your child.
10. **If You Need Help, Ask.** The building principal and guidance counselors can help. The classroom teachers may have some suggestions. The entire school team is there to assist you if your child is not experiencing school success.

Mark McDaniel

Director of Student Services

Why aren't cheerleaders eligible for the LCL scholar award?

By Sierra Noser , High School Journalism Student



On Monday, November 22nd, there was an assembly at Licking Valley High School in which the LCL scholar athletes were awarded for their hard work. However, when the names were mentioned over the announcements, not a single cheerleader was called down. Upon coming to this realization, I questioned the school's principal about the incident.

He continued to inform me that the LCL does not recognize cheerleaders as athletes, sponsor, or associate with them. Therefore, cheerleaders cannot receive the LCL scholar athlete award.

According to the [OHSAA regulations guide](#), cheerleading is a recognized sport by the OHSAA or Ohio High School Athletic Association and has the same regulations as other sports. If this is the case, we have reason to question why the Licking County League does not recognize them as such.

Cheerleading takes a lot more work than it seems. Cheerleaders work out and put physical strain on their bodies to do what they do. At football games, when it gets into colder temperatures, if they don't stretch enough or have enough time to warm up they can [pull muscles or damage ligaments in their bodies](#).

An activity for which a varsity sports letter can be obtained should be considered a sport and recognized as such. If this were to happen, a large majority of cheerleaders would obtain the scholar athlete award because they are athletes who work hard with a busy schedule while earning good grades and strive to be the best they can be.

Athletic scholarships for college are also awarded to cheerleaders, and if they are recognized as athletes at the college level, they should be at the high school level as well.

An award where athletes have received good grades should be offered to all types of sporting teams, squads, or clubs. Recognition from OHSAA should be enough to prove that cheerleaders are athletes and deserve the same chances as all other athletes. As a plan of action, the athletic director will first be addressed and action will continue from there. It is my goal to achieve equity for all athletes in what they are eligible for and able to do.



What's Up with Watkins?

By Krystal Wood, High School Journalism Student

This past Monday I visited Watkins Memorial High School, shadowing a peer by the name of Gary, in order to compare and contrast the differences between Watkins and Licking Valley.

Prior to the visit, I emailed their principal to get an okay to write and join their school for a day. He thought it was a wonderful idea, and I was more than excited to get the opportunity to go to another school for a day. Compared to Valley, Watkins' structural layout is very self-explanatory. It's one big hallway with a handful of smaller hallways, where the classrooms are located.

At Valley, when you walk in the door to your left is the commons and the gyms. To the right are the main stairs and hallways leading to the classrooms.

Watkins has a very easy set up for their hallways, 100-800 halls to make classes easy to find. Valley halls that have rooms 101-106 and so on.

One big difference I noticed was that there weren't any windows in the classrooms I visited. It took me all day to figure out why Watkins felt more enclosed than Valley, but once I figured it out I couldn't stop thinking about it.

Whilst visiting the school, I only had two bad experiences, but the rest were normal interactions. Many people didn't even notice I was there.

I think almost every school is going to be the same when it comes to the way the students act. I didn't notice anything out of the ordinary disregarding the time when a student who got almost incensed when the teacher wouldn't tell him who he voted for.

As soon as I walked into the building I could tell there was less traffic in the main hallway at Watkins than at Valley. At Valley you have to wave through all the tired, half asleep, people trying to wake before they get to class. It's much more lively and awake at Watkins, everyone seemed ready for the day.

While I was at Watkins I didn't get called out or asked who I was, just stared at by a few curious minds wondering who this new girl was.

My favorite time of the day was fourth period when we were in the MH (multiple - handicapped) room. It was fun to meet the cheerful teachers and the animated students. Mr. Eader even asked me if I've ever given Mr. Ellis, the agriculture teacher here, a "three-five."

In the MH room, Gary and I got to tutor two of the students the day I was there, Caeman and Tyler. Caeman was a very tall and large set boy that enjoys singing and making patterns with blocks. Gary and I chose words out of a story for him to define, but he didn't pay much attention and guessed on all of the questions. After, we gave him patterns to make out of blocks and he got all of them right and excitedly gave Gary a very enthusiastic high-five.

Tyler is a short, muscular boy that can speak, but speaks with a speech impediment. He's very intelligent and told us what several Constitutional amendments mean.

Each student has a unique thing that they do, or like. Caeman likes to sing and he does an action when he's excited where he pulls his arms in-and-out, and makes a very loud sound. Every once in awhile Tyler will get up and rock on both feet until Mrs. Holbrook tells him to sit back down. This class was so enjoyable that I'm almost disconsolate that I can't go back and see Tyler and Caeman again.

I enjoyed my time at Watkins, and I'm thankful I got the opportunity to visit another school for a day, and seeing the differences between the two schools were very eye opening.

I have to give a big thank you to Mr. Tanchevski, the principal of Watkins, and Mr. Weaver, our principal, for allowing me to visit his school for a day.



Tyler and Caeman



Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

SUICIDE AND SCHOOLS

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy J. Plouck, Director

Resources for schools to help at-risk youth

Suicide prevention efforts seek to reduce the risk factors in youth and strengthen the protective factors that help them cope with stress in more positive ways.

Many people incorrectly believe that talking with students about suicide will "put the idea into their head." However, asking students if they are feeling depressed or suicidal, in a non-judgmental way, shows them that someone else is interested in them and cares for them.

As required in Ohio House Bill 543 (the Jason Flatt Act), educators must be knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of depression and suicidal behavior among students and possess the skills to identify and refer if they suspect that these issues may personally impact a student.



National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255

Twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week, the Lifeline provides free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for individuals or their loved ones, and best practices for professionals. An online chat option is also available, as are numbers for veterans, Spanish-speaking individuals, or people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

<http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Crisis Text Line - Text "4hope" to 741-741

Unveiled in September 2016, any Ohio resident who needs help coping with a stressful situation can reach out 24/7 by text to communicate with someone trained to listen and respond in a method that is private, secure and confidential. Crisis Counselors provide a personal response and information on a range of issues, including: suicidal thoughts, bullying, depression and self-harm.

Data usage while texting Crisis Text Line is free and the number will not appear on a phone bill with the mobile service carrier. An algorithm reviews text for severity and messages that are determined to be from someone at imminent risk are placed at the top of the queue.

[Crisis Text Line Fact Sheet](#)

Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF)

Ohio's Campaign for Hope Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative offers free suicide prevention trainings by OSPF using Kognito. Kognito is a research-proven training simulation designed to prepare educators, staff and students to: 1) recognize when someone is exhibiting signs of psychological distress or underlying trauma and 2) manage a conversation with the goal of connecting them with the appropriate support.

In online courses, users engage in practice conversations with virtual humans. With the help of a virtual coach, users learn effective methods for engaging in difficult conversations, including applying motivational interviewing skills, asking open-ended questions and avoiding common pitfalls. These conversations address PTSD, behavioral health, suicide prevention and social change, and other topics, giving users a low-risk environment in which to practice conversations.

The initiative is a three-year youth suicide prevention campaign funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

<https://ohio.kognito.com/>



Project AWARE Ohio

This partnership among the Ohio Department of Education, the Center for School Based-Mental Health Programs at Miami University and the educational service centers within three pilot counties (Cuyahoga, Warren and Wood) makes Youth Mental Health First Aid training available statewide at no cost. Project AWARE is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The **Youth Mental Health First Aid** course is an eight-hour training (which can be broken into two, four-hour trainings) intended for adults who interact with school-age youth (12-18 years old). The course reviews typical adolescent development, introduces common mental health challenges for youth, and teaches a five-step action plan to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

To learn more or schedule a Youth Mental Health First Aid training, contact Kathy Oberlin, director, Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success, at oberlink2@gmail.com or (330) 697-3899.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

This non-profit organization was founded in 1987 and now has a chapter in all 50 states. It supports research, education and advocacy. Its Model School District Policy on Suicide Prevention presents specific, actionable steps to support school personnel; sample language for student handbooks; suggestions for involving parents and guardians in suicide prevention; and guidance for addressing in-school suicide attempts.

In collaboration with the American School Counselor Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, and The Trevor Project, the program is research-based, and easily adaptable for middle and high schools.

Download the policy at <https://afsp.org/our-work/education/model-school-policy-suicide-prevention/>



Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools

This free toolkit from the SAMHSA was developed to assist high schools and school districts in designing and implementing strategies to prevent suicide and promote behavioral health. The kit includes tools to implement a multi-faceted suicide prevention program that responds to the needs and cultures of students.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Preventing-Suicide-A-Toolkit-for-High-Schools/SMA12-4669>

Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC)

Funded by SAMHSA, SPRC is the nation's only federally supported resource center devoted to advancing the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. It supports comprehensive plans for suicide prevention in every setting where people live, work and are cared for -- including schools. The website includes a free online course in understanding the role of gatekeeper training and whether it may make sense to implement one in your school or organization.

<http://www.sprc.org/>



SuicidePrevention.Ohio.gov

Ohio legislation, known as House Bill 28, requires each state public institution of higher education to provide incoming students with information about mental health topics, including available depression and suicide prevention resources. This website was developed by a workgroup of professionals in evidence-based prevention programming to support Ohio's public colleges and universities in complying with this law. However, the resources included can be of interest to anyone interested in learning more about suicide prevention.

<http://suicideprevention.ohio.gov/>



Our mission is to provide statewide leadership of a high-quality mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery system that is effective and valued by all Ohioans.

November 2016