



# High School Gatekeeper Curriculum

Setting  
**Schools**

Type of Program  
**Education & Training**

NSSP Goals Addressed  
**1.0, 8.4**

## Program Description

Developed by Gryphon Place, the *Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Program: A High School Curriculum* is organized into four class-period length lessons. A gatekeeper philosophy—i.e., identification of those exhibiting risk behaviors, asking about behaviors of concern, and referral of those possibly at-risk to a trusted adult—is the primary theme of the lessons. Also emphasized are the de-stigmatization of mental illness, breaking the “culture of silence”, and the encouragement of help-seeking. Teacher training and parent education components are included. Linkages to helping resources and personnel within schools and a local 24/7 crisis line are promoted.

For over 15 years Gryphon Place has used a continuous evaluation and quality improvement process, collecting input from teachers, youth, and the suicide prevention field, to modify and improve the curriculum program. Gryphon Place has been providing a comprehensive array of suicide prevention services, training, and consultation since 1988.

## Program Objectives

After program implementation, participating students will have:

1. Increased knowledge related to suicide and suicide prevention.
2. Increased awareness of their attitudes toward suicide and depression.
3. Increased knowledge of suicide warning signs.
4. Increased knowledge of intervention skills for at-risk peers.
5. Increased knowledge of referral strategies and helping services.

## Implementation Essentials

- The program must be presented by personnel trained by Gryphon Place.
- Specific school referral points for at-risk students and linkages to helping services must be identified and incorporated into the curriculum content prior to implementation.

## Contact Information

William H. Pell  
 Executive Director  
 Gryphon Place  
 1104 South Westnedge Ave.  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
 Voice: 269-381-1510  
 Fax: 269-381-0935  
 Email: [wpell@gryphon.org](mailto:wpell@gryphon.org)  
 Website: [www.gryphon.org](http://www.gryphon.org)

## Costs

Costs vary. Additional options include training of faculty, parent education materials, and consultation.

For more information contact Guy Golomb, Director of Suicide Prevention Services at 269-381-1510 or by email at [ggolomb@gryphon.org](mailto:ggolomb@gryphon.org)

\*The content of practices listed in Section III (Adherence to Standards) of the SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry address specific goals of the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and have been reviewed by a panel of three suicide prevention experts and found to meet standards of accuracy, safety, and programmatic guidelines. Practices were not reviewed for evidence of effectiveness. Additional information about the Best Practices Registry can be found at [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org).

The Best Practices Registry is supported by a grant (1 U79 SM57392-03) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). No official endorsement by SAMHSA or DHHS for the information in this document is intended or should be inferred.