



# Guidelines for School-based Suicide Prevention Programs

Setting  
**Schools**

Type of Program  
**Protocols & Guidelines**

NSSP Goals Addressed  
**6.5, 8,4**

## Program Description

Developed by the Prevention Division of the American Association of Suicidology, the *Guidelines for School-Based Suicide Prevention Programs* provides practical recommendations for the safe and effective implementation of school-based suicide prevention programs. Topics addressed by the *Guidelines* include:

- The conceptual basis for prevention programs
- Requirements for effective suicide prevention programs
- Requirements for effective program implementation
- Requirements for institutionalization and sustainability of suicide prevention programs
- Components of comprehensive school-based suicide prevention programs

An outline of a four-lesson sample student curriculum is provided, as is a selected bibliography of suicide prevention and crisis intervention literature.

## Program Objectives

Users of the *Guidelines* should have:

1. Increased knowledge of the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of effective school-based suicide prevention programs.
2. Increased understanding of universal, selective, and indicated approaches to suicide prevention.
3. Increased knowledge of effective program implementation and sustainability strategies.
4. Increased knowledge of the multiple components of a comprehensive school-based suicide prevention program.

## Program Development

The *Guidelines* were developed by members of the Prevention Division of the American Association of Suicidology in 1999. Content was derived from both a review of the literature and expert opinion. Significant input was provided by John Kalafat of Rutgers University.

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## Costs

The *Guidelines* are available from the American Association of Suicidology for a small fee.

\*The content of programs listed in Section II (Expert and Consensus Statements) 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 importance, likelihood of meeting objectives, accuracy, safety, congruence with prevailing knowledge, and appropriateness of development process. Programs 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).

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