



MASSACHUSETTS: As Student Suicides Rise, a Harvard Case Opens New Questions about Schools' Responsibility

October 11, 2019

News Type: Weekly Spark, Weekly Spark News

State: Massachusetts

[WGBH](#) [1]

A recent lawsuit is raising questions about colleges' role in preventing suicide on campus. After Harvard University student Luke Tang attempted and later died by suicide, his father took legal action against the school and some of its employees for failing to prevent his son's death. The lawsuit expands on a 2018 state supreme court ruling that schools have a "limited duty" to prevent suicide if they are aware a student is at risk. Tang's death also highlights a need to address the unique challenges faced by Asian American students at Harvard and other competitive schools. According to national data, Asian students have the highest "unmet need" for mental health counseling among their peers. Experts are calling for more research on the particular needs of racial and ethnic groups and increased access to culturally competent mental health resources on campuses.

Spark Extra! Check out our [virtual learning lab for campus suicide prevention](#) [2].

Links within this resource

[1] <https://www.wgbh.org/news/education/2019/09/16/as-student-suicides-rise-a-harvard-case-opens-new-questions-about-schools-responsibility>

[2] <http://www.sprc.org/virtualllearninglab/virtual-learning-lab-campus-suicide-prevention>

Printed on 05/26/2020 from <http://www.sprc.org/news/massachusetts-student-suicides-rise-harvard-case-opens-new-questions-about-schools>

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center at EDC is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), under Grant No. 5U79SM062297.

The views, opinions, and content expressed in this product do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of CMHS, SAMHSA, or HHS.

Copyright © 2002-2019 by Education Development Center, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

