



Jason Flatt Act

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

June 12, 2012

**Please contact Ms. Regina Thurmond
Office of School Leadership
rthurmond@ed.sc.gov
for any changes, additions or deletions to this document.**



The Law

(R194, H4690)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, SO AS TO ENACT THE "JASON FLATT ACT" BY ADDING SECTION [59-26-110](#) SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL REQUIRE TWO HOURS OF TRAINING IN YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION AS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE RENEWAL OF CREDENTIALS FOR INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR TRAINING AND MATERIALS THAT MAY BE USED BY SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TO PROVIDE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY APPROVE TRAINING MATERIALS FOR TRAINING THEIR EMPLOYEES; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS TRAINING REQUIREMENT MAY BE SATISFIED THROUGH SELF REVIEW OF SUICIDE PREVENTION MATERIALS; AND TO PROVIDE THAT NO CAUSE OF ACTION RESULTS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Jason Flatt Act

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the "Jason Flatt Act".

Youth suicide prevention teacher training

SECTION 2. Chapter 26, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:



"Section [59-26-110](#). (A) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the Department of Education shall require two hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention as a requirement for the renewal of credentials of individuals employed in a middle school or high school as defined in Section [59-1-150](#). The required training shall count toward the one hundred twenty renewal credits specified in Department of Education regulations for renewal of credentials.

(B)(1) The department shall develop guidelines suitable for training and materials that may be used by schools and districts; however districts may approve materials to be used in providing training for employees.

(2) The training required in this section may be accomplished through self-review of suicide prevention materials that meet guidelines developed by the Department of Education.

(C) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from any training, or lack of training, required by this section unless the loss or damage was caused by wilful or wanton misconduct. The training, or lack of training, required by the provisions of this section must not be construed to impose any specific duty of care."

Time effective

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval of the Governor.

Ratified the 8th day of May, 2012.

Approved the 14th day of May, 2012. -- S.



Available Resources

The following resources are available to districts to meet the requirements of the Jason Flatt Act.

1. **The Jason Foundation, Inc.** (JFI) is a nationally recognized provider of educational curriculums and training programs for students, educators/youth workers and parents. JFI's programs build an awareness of the national health problem of youth suicide; educate participants in recognizing the "warning signs or signs of concern", provide information on identifying at-risk behavior and elevated risk groups, and direct participants to local resources to deal with possible suicidal ideation. JFI's student curriculums are presented in the "third-person" perspective – how to help a friend. The Jason Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit 501c3. The Jason Foundation staff development program provides specialized training for educators, law enforcement, youth leaders and others who work closely with youth. These training seminars promote awareness and prevention through information that is pertinent to the relationships and interactions that exist between educators or youth workers and their students. They also suggest resources that can be used to help a depressed or suicidal student. School districts should send a written request to The Jason Foundation asking for a login and password using the comment section of the form found here:

http://www.jasonfoundation.com/aboutus/index_contactus.php

Upon entering the training modules site you will find four modules. To gain a comprehensive understanding it is recommended that all four modules be viewed. Viewing all four modules will exceed the requirement of two hours. Module TWO will provide the requirement. After completion of the viewing a short certification assessment must be completed and a certificate printed out.

The Jason Foundation offers this online training at NO COST.



- 2. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** AFSP has developed an educational program to help teachers and other school personnel learn more about teen suicide and how they can play a role in its prevention. More Than Sad: Suicide Prevention Education for Teachers and Other School Personnel features two films, each approximately 25 minutes in length, and a manual that integrates both films into a comprehensive suicide prevention program. The program is designed to comply with states that have requirements or recommendations for teacher education in suicide prevention, and can be used for group trainings or individual study. The first film, More Than Sad: Preventing Teen Suicide, educates teachers, counselors other school personnel about the causes of youth suicide, warning signs and steps they can take to get help for students. The second film, More Than Sad: Teen Depression, features four vignettes, each designed to present to teens a recognizable picture of depression, reduce fears and misconceptions about treatment, and promote help-seeking behavior. Both films were produced by AFSP in conjunction with the award-winning Break Thru Films. Over 7,500 films have been distributed to date. In 2010, AFSP and the Alabama Department of Education joined together to distribute the More Than Sad program to all 513 public high schools in the state, and the program is currently being used in 86 school districts throughout South Carolina. The More Than Sad program is currently listed in the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practices Registry for suicide prevention, and AFSP is using grants from Forest Laboratories and the Pepsi Refresh Project to offer webinars to instruct over 5,000 teachers on how they can use the Teen Depression film to encourage their students to get help for this common and treatable disorder. Said one recent webinar participant, "I feel much better prepared to recognize and intervene appropriately if I see suicide tendencies or behaviors in my students." The complete package, More Than Sad: Suicide Prevention Education for Teachers and Other School Personnel, includes the two DVDs, a 42-page program manual, and a PowerPoint presentation for use by trainers and facilitators of teacher in-service programs.

The package may be ordered from AFSP: <http://www.afsp.org/>

Several individuals from districts/schools have already received the facilitator training and materials from AFSP.

The local contact is Helen Pridgen, she may be contacted at: hpridgen@afsp.org



3. **Mental Health America** offers training in QPR. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer -- 3 simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. Each year thousands of Americans, like you, are saying "Yes" to saving the life of a friend, colleague, sibling, or neighbor. QPR can be learned in our Gatekeeper course in as little as one hour. **IN ONE HOUR YOU CAN BECOME A GATEKEEPER.** According to the Surgeon General's National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (2001), a gatekeeper is someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide. Gatekeepers include parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, ministers, doctors, nurses, office supervisors, squad leaders, foremen, police officers, advisors, caseworkers, firefighters, and many others who are strategically positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide. As a QPR-trained Gatekeeper you will learn to: Recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to offer hope, know how to get help and save a life, we cannot overemphasize the need for early recognition of suicide warning signs. In a cardiac crisis, the difference between recognizing and acting where there is chest discomfort before it becomes crushing chest pain can mean the difference between life and death. In a suicide crisis, the difference between recognizing and acting where there are vague ideas of suicide before these lead to a self-inflicted injury, can mean the difference between life and death.

Mental Health American has trainers in several parts of the state and would be glad to train for QPR.

The lowest cost would be \$4.50 per person with a minimum of 50 people.

Several individuals in districts/schools have already received the facilitator training in QPR and have the materials from MHA.

The local contact is Donna Soileau, she may be contacted at:
dsoileau@mha-sc.org



WEB RESOURCES

- Center for Suicide Prevention
<http://www.suicideinfo.ca/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center
<http://www.safeyouth.org/home.htm>
- International Academy for Suicide Research
<http://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/IASR>
- National Center for Suicide Prevention Training
<http://www.ncspt.org>
- National Library of Medicine
<http://www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention>
- The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Suicide
<http://www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention/calltoaction.asp>
- Schools can be referral points for children's mental and physical health. The companion action plan entitled National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives has 11 goals accompanied by 68 objectives.
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calltoaction/default.htm>
- Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) on the CDC's National Center for the Injury Prevention and Control Web site
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.htm>



In order for districts to comply with the recertification requirement of this act the following assurance statement should be added to all recertification paperwork sent to SDE.

“This individual has met the requirements for recertification at their grade level to include the Jason Flatt Act if required.”

For additional information requests please contact:

Ms. Regina Thurmond
Office of School Leadership
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223
803-896-0200
rthurmond@ed.sc.gov