



**RESOLUTION 202324-3  
SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**WHEREAS** suicide is a tragic outcome of many complex factors that can affect anyone, does not discriminate, that requires immediate action, consistent attention, and appropriate resources for prevention, intervention, and postvention efforts; and

**WHEREAS** suicide is the ninth leading cause of death for Oregonians and the second leading cause of death for Oregon youth ages 10 to 24<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** 55 people died by suicide in Marion County and 19 people died by suicide in Polk County in 2021<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** anyone may be silently fighting thoughts of suicide, and the stigma around mental health and suicide may interfere with suicide prevention by discouraging individuals from seeking timely, appropriate, and life-saving help; and

**WHEREAS** suicide prevention focuses on addressing warning signs, risk, and impact factors throughout the lifespan that may contribute to suicide thoughts and/or attempts, while also emphasizing protective and resilience factors to support ongoing prevention; and

**WHEREAS** no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient or appropriate for all populations or communities, and every person and organization have an essential role in supporting prevention, reducing stigma, and saving lives; and

**WHEREAS** public awareness, education, care, connection, building resiliency, referrals, and treatment are some important factors to prevent further suffering and loss of life; and

**WHEREAS** Salem-Keizer Public Schools intervenes with hundreds of students each year who are experiencing and expressing suicidal ideation and/or behavior, and the loss of even one student life is too many; and

**WHEREAS** Salem-Keizer Public Schools embraces the challenging but life-saving work of promoting prevention, intervention, and postvention; advocating for more equitable and culturally responsive care and supports; and equipping district staff to talk about suicide, recognize if an individual is struggling with thoughts of suicide, and provide a life-saving intervention for the person struggling; and

**WHEREAS** Salem-Keizer Public Schools adopted a suicide prevention policy in September 2019 and trains all school staff and many community members in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention efforts and promotes genuine gestures of kindness, care, connection, concern, and acknowledgement of the value and worth of others' lives; and

**WHEREAS** September was first declared National Suicide Prevention month in 2008 to increase awareness that prevention efforts save lives, and Salem-Keizer Public Schools wants to contribute to those awareness and prevention efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Salem-Keizer Public Schools commits to continue supporting suicide prevention efforts through ongoing QPR training for all staff and implementation of evidence-based suicide prevention training for counselors and social workers, and the use of robust suicide prevention protocols, student access to mental health support, ongoing collaboration in prevention with community partners and the Mid-Valley Suicide Prevention Coalition, and authentic care and connection with all students.

Karina Guzmán Ortiz, Chairperson, Board of Directors  
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

09/12/2023

Date

1: <https://afsp.org/facts/oregon>

2: [Oregon Health Authority Center for Health Statistics](#)