



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ALERT – Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Fargo Public School District #1

THE JED FOUNDATION AND THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION SELECT FPS TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION APPROACH

Fargo Public Schools has been selected to participate in a new program to guide school districts across the country in a transformational program supporting the emotional wellbeing of students.

- WHAT:** District Comprehensive Approach
- FPS CONTACT:** **Dr. Jennifer Sahr**, FPS Assistant Director of Educational Justice, sahrj@fargo.k12.nd.us or 701.446.1028.
- JED CONTACT:** **Justin Barbo**, The Jed Foundation Director of Public Relations, justin@jedfoundation.org, 914.844.4611.

Fargo Public Schools was chosen from among dozens of school district candidates nationwide to participate in the District Comprehensive Approach (DCA) created in partnership by The Jed Foundation (JED) and The School Superintendents Association's (AASA) to strengthen the mental health and emotional well-being of its students.

The DCA will provide select school districts with an evidence-based framework combined with expert support, best practices, and data-driven guidance to ensure existing systems support the mental health of – and reduce suicide risk for – *all* students at every grade level.

Derived from JED's Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention for High Schools, this collaboration establishes a new framework and exemplifies the significance school district leaders are placing on their students' emotional health. The initiative combines JED's decades of nationwide experience protecting emotional health and preventing suicide for more than 500 high schools, colleges, and universities with AASA's 150-year commitment to serving public education and school district leadership.

"We are excited to welcome Fargo Public Schools into the 2023 inaugural cohort of districts nationwide that will be at the forefront of implementing powerful practices to support their students and staff," said Tony Walker, Senior Vice President of Academic Programs at The Jed Foundation. "Suicide has risen every year over the past decade for students aged 5 to 11 and in 2021, one in five high school students made a suicide plan. Schools play a critical role in reversing these trends, but they cannot do that without adequate resources and training. Together, we can all help students thrive and prevent suicide."

“Our district is one of a select few from across the country to participate in this groundbreaking program, and we are excited about the ways we will be able to positively impact student mental health and wellness,” said FPS Assistant Director of Educational Justice Dr. Jennifer Sahr. “Fargo Public Schools is proud to be an inaugural participant in this program, and we look forward to working with JED and AASA to improve our school district and create communities of care.”

For more information on the DCA program, visit [JED's website](#).

About The Jed Foundation (JED)

JED is a nonprofit that protects emotional health and prevents suicide for our nation’s teens and young adults. It partners with high schools and colleges to strengthen their mental health, substance misuse, and suicide prevention programs and systems. It equips teens and young adults with the skills and knowledge to help themselves and each other. And it encourages community awareness, understanding, and action for young adult mental health.

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