



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Injury and Violence Prevention Branch**

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
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State Health Director

In the past 14 months, your school system has been collaborating with the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Youth Suicide Prevention Program on a series of youth suicide prevention trainings. With your help, we have trained over 500 school staff in three different suicide prevention curricula. We appreciate your support for the prevention of youth suicide and would like to extend an opportunity to involve your students directly in these prevention efforts.

The Youth Suicide Prevention Program is creating a suicide prevention website called "It's OK 2 Ask about Suicide" (www.itsok2ask.com) which is specifically designed for North Carolina youth. The purpose of the website is to encourage youth to talk about suicide, examine the stigma attached to suicide, understand how to provide assistance to someone that may be having thoughts of suicide, and to encourage youth to seek help themselves if they are having thoughts of suicide. We are trying to make the website as interactive as possible with input from youth.

Our website will feature student-created and developed videos that raise awareness of suicide prevention, teach the signs and symptoms, demonstrate help-seeking behaviors and caring for others. We will provide one \$2,000 mini-grant per school to assist with production (such as equipment/software for videotaping and/or editing, props, costumes and other related expenses) We would like to invite high school students from any school that participated in the suicide prevention training to apply to create a video.

Students must submit a one page overview of their idea with the signature of a supervising adult from the school. Submissions will be reviewed and 14 high schools will be selected to participate. Once the videos are submitted and reviewed they will be posted on the website and run in select movie theaters across the state.

We request your support in sharing the attached information about the project with students at your school. Any questions about the process can be directed to Jane Ann Miller, Youth Suicide Prevention Project Manager, at 919-707-5430, or Sherry Lehman, Youth Suicide Prevention School Consultant, at 919-707-5349.

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North Carolina Public Health
Working for a healthier and safer North Carolina
Everywhere. Everyday. Everybody.

