

Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Trainings: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: July 16, 2024

With the passage of [House Bill 1020](#) in legislative session, [South Dakota Codified Law 13-42-71](#) changed on July 1 to move the verification of the youth suicide awareness and prevention training requirement from certification to accreditation. This means that although educators are still required to complete at least one clock hour of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training every five years, verification will be conducted through accreditation reviews rather than educator certification.

Q1: Are educators required to submit any documentation in their initial and/or renewal certification application of completing the youth suicide awareness and prevention training requirement?

A1: No. Educators will receive certificates of completion for completing approved training and should submit them to their districts. Districts are responsible for tracking their educators' completion of the training requirement.

Q2: Which youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings are approved to meet the training requirement?

A2: An approved list of youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings are posted on the department's [Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention training page](#). Only the trainings listed on this site are approved to meet the requirement.

Q3: May districts provide any youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings that are not listed on the department's [Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention training page](#)?

A3: Only youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings posted on the [Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention training page](#) are approved to meet the training requirement. Suicide prevention trainings offered to educators that are not part of the approved list may be utilized for continuing education purposes.

Q4: How does a suicide prevention training gain approval to meet the training requirement?

A4: The Board of Education Standards approves youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings. Training providers may apply for approval through the department. The application and process is posted on the [Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention training page](#). Applications for approval for the following school year are due December 1.

Q5: Will district-sponsored youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings not found on the department's approved list be grandfathered in to meet the training requirement?

A5: Yes. Any district-sponsored youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings taken before July 1, 2024, will be grandfathered in for five years.

Q6: How will accreditation reviews take place for the youth suicide awareness and prevention training requirement?

A6: Districts will be responsible for keeping track of every certified educator's completion of training and providing assurance that the requirement has been met. Certificates of training completion must be made available for review upon request. More information on

accreditation reviews is posted on the department's [K-12 State Accreditation page](#).

Q7: How will this statute impact certified educators who are not employed in districts?

A7: Only educators who are employed in accredited districts and schools must comply with the statute. However, the department strongly encourages educators who are not employed in accredited districts to complete youth suicide awareness and prevention training as an important component of working with youth. As suicide was the leading cause of death in 2022 for South Dakota youth ages 10 to 19 (SD DOH Vital Stats), adults who are trained to recognize suicide risk and provide appropriate responses and referrals may make a difference in saving lives.

Q8: How do districts work with educators who are newly employed in meeting the training requirement?

A8: The intent of the statute is that a certified educator has already completed an approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training within five years of becoming employed at a district. New employees who have not completed an approved training will need to complete one prior to or at the beginning of their employment.

Q9: Are staff who are not certified through the SD Department of Education required to complete the youth suicide awareness and prevention training requirement?

A9: Accreditation reviews will analyze through assurances whether staff certified through the SD Department of Education have completed the training requirement. However, all staff, regardless of certification, are encouraged to complete youth suicide awareness and prevention training.