



Economic Impact Survey Introduction Suicide Prevention and Response Accreditation Standard

In 2015, the Legislature enacted the “Suicide Awareness and Prevention Act” that required the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to provide training, guidance, and technical assistance to Montana schools regarding suicide awareness and prevention. § 20-7-1310, MCA. In accordance with that Act, the OPI is focusing on and supporting evidence-based practices and offering districts technical assistance to build district-wide systems of support. Important laws that address suicide prevention and response in schools are now included on the [OPI Website](#) along with resources to determine appropriate suicide prevention and response at your school and in the home. Sample policies and procedures for best practice suicide prevention and response programs are also provided on the website.

In 2017, however, the Legislature amended the “Suicide Awareness and Prevention Act” to require that local school district trustees “...establish policies, procedures, or plans related to suicide prevention and response.” Based on that legislative action, the State Superintendent has initiated the process for amending the accreditation standards to specifically recognize that new requirement. Proposed changes to the accreditation standards require that the State Superintendent establish an independent negotiated rulemaking committee (“Committee”) under § 20-1-701, MCA, and Superintendent Arntzen selected 16 members to serve on that Committee in accordance with § 20-1-701(2), MCA.

The Committee met on December 20, 2017 and reached consensus on language for proposed changes to the accreditation standards to incorporate the new legislative requirement. In addition to using a negotiated rulemaking committee to develop those recommended changes, the OPI is also required to develop an Economic Impact Statement (per § 2-4-405, MCA) relating to any new proposed accreditation standards.

The OPI now needs your help in developing the Economic Impact Statement for the proposed new rule/amendment to the accreditation standards. To complete the survey, you will need to review the language for the proposed new rule/amendment. ([Click to view](#)). The survey, which was developed in consultation with the Committee, asks questions about the available resources, personnel, and professional development that your district may need for local school district implementation of a new policy, procedure, or plan for suicide prevention and response.

[Click here to begin the survey.](#)

Please respond by 5 P.M. on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

THANK YOU for time and effort to complete this survey. If you have questions about the proposed amendment, please contact Linda Vrooman Peterson at lvpeterson@mt.gov, or 406-444-5726.

January 12, 2018