



Sponsored by the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana School Counselors Association, Dr. Scott Poland will present for the benefit of Montana school counselors, CSCT therapists, and other youth mental health and suicide prevention specialists.

Webinar: Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention in Schools and the Importance of Self-Care by Dr. Scott Poland

Join us virtually February 1, 2022, 3:30-5:00 pm

COUNSELORS, CSCT, & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS [REGISTER HERE](#)

Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for school age children ten and older in the U.S. and suicide rates have increased for children of color. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results from the CDC found that 8.9% of high school students surveyed made a suicide attempt in the last 12 months. Notably, the 2021 YRBS showed 10.2% of high school students surveyed in Montana made a suicide attempt in the last 12 months. School mental health personnel such as counselors, psychologists and social workers are the logical personnel to screen students for suicide risk, notify parents and refer for community-based services, and provide follow-up at school. This virtual workshop will provide extensive information on the role of schools in suicide prevention.

Schools must also be prepared to respond if a suicide has occurred to reduce suicide contagion. Dr. Poland has assisted many communities that have experienced a youth suicide point cluster. This presentation will help schools implement prevention and intervention plans that support suicidal and/or grieving students if a suicide has occurred. Dr. Poland has also served as an expert witness in numerous legal cases where schools were sued after a student suicide and will discuss the prevention lessons from those cases.

It is recognized that school mental health professionals experience stress due to intense interactions when assessing students at-risk for suicide, obtaining parental support, increasing supervision of the student, and obtaining community based mental health services. There has been much concern about the effect of the pandemic on over all wellbeing for students and staff. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of self-care and coping strategies for todays' world.

This event is a *pre-conference webinar* for the MSCA 2022 Spring Conference Spark! details [available here](#).

For more information on the webinar, please contact Tammy Lysons, tamara.lysons@mt.gov, 406-431-2309.



Dr. Scott Poland is a Professor and the Director of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office at Nova Southeastern University. He is an internationally recognized expert on school crisis and youth suicide and has authored six books and numerous chapters on the subject. He previously directed psychological services for a large Texas school system, is a past President of the National Association of School Psychologists, and a past Prevention Division Director for the American Association of Suicidology. He co-authored the [Crisis Action School Toolkit on Suicide for Montana](#). Dr. Poland was also a founding member of the National Emergency Assistance Team and has assisted schools/communities after many tragedies such as school shootings, suicides, and acts of terrorism. He is very dedicated to prevention and has testified about the needs of children before the U.S.

Congress on four occasions. He is known for his practical and dynamic presentations. His presentations on Coping with Covid have reached more than 100,000 people since the start of the pandemic.

