Public Chapter 623 requires districts to adopt a student suicide prevention policy. The Tennessee Department of Education, in collaboration with the Tennessee School Boards Association, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, and the state departments of health and mental health and substance abuse services has developed a model student suicide prevention policy (here). An important element of this policy is the availability and dissemination of appropriate resources to assist schools and districts in adequately supporting students and families. The information below summarizes currently available resources in the areas of prevention, intervention, and postvention.

Prevention/Intervention

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)
- The Tennessee Statewide Crisis Phone Line: 855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471)

Note: You will be routed to a trained crisis specialist in your area.

To reach an agency directly:

**Youth Villages**
(866) 791-9221 (North Middle TN)
(866) 791-2222 (South Middle TN)
866) 791-9227 (Rural West TN)
(866) 791-9226 (Memphis Region)
(866) 791-9224 (East Region)
(866) 791-9225 (South East Region)

**Mental Health Cooperative**
615) 726-0125 (Davidson County)
Frontier Health
(877) 928-9062 (Upper East TN)

Helen Ross McNabb
(865) 539-2409 (East TN)

- The State of Tennessee provides various options for Mental Health Crisis Services. Those options can be found [here](#).
- The Suicide Prevention Resource Center has developed a list of resources to address suicide prevention. [Click here](#) to access their list.
- The Jason Foundation provides educational and awareness programs for students, parents, and teachers for the prevention of youth suicide. Information about their programs can be found [here](#).
- Through the Tennessee AWARE project, the department of education offers free training to adults who regularly interact with adolescents ages 12–18 to detect and respond to youth mental health concerns, including suicide. Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is a 7.5 hour education program designed for all youth-serving adults. To learn more about YMHFA, click [here](#). For additional information or to schedule a YMHFA training, email Janet.Watkins@tn.gov.
- SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) has developed a resource map that locates behavioral health resources in your area. The resource map can be accessed [here](#).
- The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, Tennessee Department of Health, Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence have partnered to develop a parent’s guide to suicide-proofing homes. [Click here](#) to access “Suicide-Proofing Your Home: The Parent’s Guide to Keeping Your Child Safe.”

Postvention

- The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network has created a document outlining suicide postvention guidelines based on a guide created by the American Association of Suicidology. The intent of this document is to assist schools and districts with effectively dealing with the impact of a student suicide. It details the purpose of the crisis team, dissemination of information, counseling, memorials, and funerals. Additionally, it includes information on supporting the family and dealing with media inquiries. [Click here](#) to access this document.
The Tennessee Department of Education offers training to school districts to help improve the response and recovery portion of their emergency management plan. Tennessee Schools PREPARE is a free three-hour training which provides best practices in a postvention crisis plan, leadership before a crisis, skills for postvention team members, and methods for building resilience in youth. To learn more about Tennessee Schools PREPARE, visit their website here. For additional information or to schedule a PREPARE training, email Janet.Watkins@tn.gov.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center have developed After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools. This document includes an overview of key considerations, general guidelines for action, do’s and don’ts, templates, and sample materials for districts to use in the event of a suicide. Click here to access the toolkit.