



- Safe Schools Healthy Students
Patsy Hawk – Project Director
- Office of Student Support and Intervention Services

Todd County School District

Lakota Life Values

Wao'hola – Respect: for self, higher power, family, community, all life (pride – satisfaction from doing your personal best; responsibility – to respond when appropriate, to be accountable for your actions; sense of humor – to laugh and be playful without harming others).

Wauñšila – Caring and Compassion: love, caring and concern for one another in a good way, especially for the family, the old ones, the young ones, the orphans, the ones in mourning, the sick ones, and the ones working for the people; (patience – wait calmly for someone or something; friendship – to make and keep friends through mutual trust and caring).

Wah'wala – Humility: we have a spirit, we are no better nor any less than others.

Wačantognaka – Generosity and Helping: giving freely from the heart not only of material things but also emphasizes the warm feelings of sympathy, tenderness, regard and unselfishness not expecting anything in return, (initiative – to do something because it needs to be done; cooperation – to work together toward a common goal or purpose).

Wowaciñ tañka – Fortitude: strength of mind in the face of pain, adversity or peril. Resolution, endurance, perseverance and firmness or strength of mind, (courage – to act according to one's beliefs and perseverance – to keep at it).

Woksape – Wisdom: a high degree of knowledge; learning, using good practical judgement and common sense. Seeing clearly what is right and just, (organization – to plan, arrange, and implement in an orderly manner; problem solve – to create solutions in difficult situations and everyday problems; curiosity – a desire to investigate and seek understanding of our world).

Wočekiya – Spirituality: finding spirituality by communicating with your higher power, this is communication between you and Tuŋkašila.

Wowijake – Honesty and Truth: with yourself, higher power, and others (integrity – to act according to a sense of what's right and wrong).

Woohitika – Bravery: to meet or face with courage, to do something difficult without showing fear or running from it (effort – to do your very best and be willing to learn).



Safe Schools
Healthy Students

OFFICE OF STUDENT SUPPORT & INTERVENTION (OSSI)

TODD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 66-1 • PO BOX 87 • MISSION, SD 57555

"United For the Future."

"Tawacin Wanjila Tokatakiya unyapi kte."

Project Information

- Rural Reservation Area Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Land base is 1400 sq. mi. *27 mi. x 52 mi.*
- Population is about 10,000 people
- Student population is approximately 2, 500 enrolled in school district
- One high School grades 9-12 w/Alternative *(540)*
- One Middle School grades 6-8 including two Intervention centers *(410)*

Project Information

- North Elem. Grades K-3 *(430)*
- South Elem. Grades 4-5 *(190)*
- Outlying Schools
- Seven outlying schools K-5 some to grade 8 *(750)*
- Resource Center for Ex. Ed. Pre-school services *(40)*
- Behavioral Intervention classes for k-5
- Behavioral Intervention classes for 6-8
- Middle School Accelerated Program
- JDC classes *(100)*

Suicide Prevention and Intervention

- Use of partnership agencies to address and assist students in need
- Responsive - immediate mental health services
- Parent reporting and involvement
- Placement Services
- Aftercare Services
- “It’s okay to ask for help” message

Approach to Address Suicide Prevention

- Implementation of culturally appropriate evidence-based program
 - ASIST Applied Suicide Intervention System Tools
- Partnerships
 - South Dakota Dept. of Ed. partnership to provide training on evidence based programs
 - WWHHC funded by federal Garrett Lee Smith grant
- Capacity Building
 - District level staff member as trained trainer
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- Staff Development
 - Collaborative and cross-agency
 - both the SS/HS and Garrett Lee Smith Suicide prevention programs partner to provide training to all school district staff and all tribal employees

Selection of Programs

- QPR - Question Persuade Refer
 - All staff will be trained in QPR
 - Training included as part of district in-service throughout the year
- ASIST
 - two day training held during summer professional development or other times when staff are available

Partnerships

- Wiconi Wakan Health and Healing Center
- Native Aspirations
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe Suicide Prevention Task Force
- TCSD Counselors
- Indian Health Services Behavioral Health
- Southern Plains Behavioral Health Services

Challenges that Have Been Addressed

- Lack of Service Coordination
 - Prior to SS/HS Initiative, many service providers worked with the same students on prevention and intervention without coordinating
 - After three years of working as a team, the staff now coordinate the services and share resources
- Duplication of Services
 - streamlined non-duplication of services

Solutions

- Service provider meetings
- Sharing of information
- All partners working for student safety
- Referral services are a team effort
- Family involvement

Outcomes

- The number of suicides has decreased
- The number of suicide attempts has decreased
- The number of interventions has increased
- The number of appropriate treatment placements have increased
- The dollars to fund intervention has increased
- The dollars required for staff to deal with the aftermath of suicides and attempts has decreased