

For Immediate Release

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SAU 31 Receives Suicide Prevention Training Grant

The Newmarket School District, SAU 31, has been awarded a Department of Education grant for nearly \$27,000 to allow for representatives from schools across the region to attend suicide prevention and intervention training and anti-bullying training. These training opportunities are a part of the strategic plan created by Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) to help strengthen the region's ability to prevent substance use and abuse among youth by creating healthier overall environments for young people.

SAU 31 has been involved Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention, a coalition funded in part by United Way of the Greater Seacoast, through its presence on the Epping/Newmarket Youth & Family Coalition. The school district applied for the grant on behalf of the larger ASAP region and in collaboration with other schools in an effort to share resources and not duplicate efforts.

2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data indicates that the region, like many communities in NH has a growing problem with youth considering and attempting suicide. The alarming statistic in this region is the percentage of youth whose attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse during the past 12 months, including one high school in the region with 33.3 % of students responding in the affirmative to that question.

As a result of the grant award, representatives from the following schools and coalitions will attend the Frameworks/Connect suicide prevention training program: Winnacunnet High School, Lower Seacoast Youth and Family Coalition, Seacoast Youth Services, Exeter High School, Pinkerton Academy, Salem High School, CATS Coalition, Epping High School, Newmarket High and Junior High School, Iber Homes Gove Middle School in Raymond, and the Epping/Newmarket Youth and Family Coalition.

Designated as a national "Best Practice" Program, Frameworks/Connect was developed in NH and is operated by NAMI NH. The Frameworks/Connect suicide prevention training program focuses on teaching school community members how to:

- *Recognize* – youth at risk of suicide;
- *Connect* – with the youth;
- *Connect* – the youth to a qualified health care provider who can assess risk; and
- *Connect* – the school community to work together on community risk and protective factors and to reduce youth suicide.

The ASAP region includes the lower Seacoast region of Atkinson, Brentwood, Chester, Danville, Derry, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Hampstead, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, Londonderry, Newfields, Newmarket, Newton, North Hampton, Pelham, Plaistow, Raymond, Salem, Sandown, Seabrook, South Hampton, Stratham and Windham.