

# **SCHOOL TOOLKIT FOR EDUCATORS TO PREVENT SUICIDE (STEPS)**

***Presenter: Scott Poland, Ed.D.***

**Thursday, September 9, 2021 ♦ 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Zoom Webinar**

The *School Toolkit for Educators to Prevent Suicide (STEPS)*, developed by Dr. Scott Poland, NSU's Director of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office with assistance from an NSU graduate student, Catherine Ivey, is designed to be utilized by K-12 educators in both public and private school settings. The toolkit is divided into three main sections: suicide prevention, suicide intervention, and suicide postvention. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for children aged 10 years and older, and increasing numbers of elementary-age students are threatening suicide. Suicide rates have also increased significantly for children of color. This presentation will outline the role of schools in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, and will emphasize the importance of schools partnering with county, state, and national resources. Schools must also be prepared to respond with postvention plans if a suicide has occurred in order to reduce suicide contagion. Postvention recommendations from the *After a Suicide: Toolkit for Schools* from the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center will be shared. Participants will also analyze prevention lessons from numerous legal cases where schools were sued after a student suicide.

*Level of Curriculum Content: Intermediate*

## **Zoom at a Glance**

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local, desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with or without video, whether you are connecting multiple conference rooms or meeting with attendees from their personal desktops or mobile devices. For more information or to download Zoom, please visit <https://zoom.us/>.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

**Scott Poland, Ed.D.** is a professor at Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology, as well as the director of NSU's Suicide and Violence Prevention Office. He is a licensed psychologist with internationally recognized expertise on school crisis prevention/intervention and student mental health. He has authored or co-authored five books and many chapters and articles on these subjects. He previously directed psychological services for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in Texas for 24 years, is a past president of the National Association of School Psychologists, and a past director of the American Association of Suicidology Prevention Division. He is very dedicated to suicide prevention and has testified about the mental health needs of children before the U.S. Congress on four occasions. He has received many awards including being named the most outstanding psychologist in Texas. Dr. Poland also has received the Houston Wage Peace Award and the Parkland Helping the Community Heal Award.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Describe protective and resiliency factors for youth
- Critique and dispel key myths about youth suicide.
- Utilize STEPS to assess and improve suicide prevention and intervention in their schools.
- Use an understanding of best practices in suicide postvention.
- Analyze the complex relationship between bullying and suicide.

## PROGRAM AGENDA

12:00pm – 12:15pm	Suicide overview and incidence for school-age youth
12:15pm – 12:30pm	Suicide in the age of COVID-19
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Suicide prevention
1:00pm – 1:15pm	Suicide intervention
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Suicide postvention
1:30pm – 1:45pm	Lessons from legal cases after a student suicide
1:45pm – 2:00pm	Summary and Resources

**For additional information on continuing education policies, please visit our web site at <http://psychology.nova.edu/ce>**

## CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

**Psychologists:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Nova Southeastern University maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

**Clinical social workers, mental health counselors, and marriage and family therapists:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the state of Florida's Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling to offer continuing education. Provider number: BAP# 330, Exp. 03/31/23.

**School psychologists:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the state of Florida's Board of Medical Therapies/Psychology, Office of School Psychology, to offer continuing education. Provider number: SCE# 11, Exp. 11/30/23.

Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists. Nova Southeastern University maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Provider# 1024

**Professional counselors:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 4548. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

**All mental health professionals will receive two (2) continuing education credits for the workshop. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be awarded. Check your licensing state's rules and regulations for more information regarding your continuing education requirements.**

Nova Southeastern University is committed to making its programs accessible to all prospective attendees. Let us know if you have specific requirements due to a disability.

## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is dedicated to providing high-quality training, education, research, and service its students and to the community. The college offers two American Psychological Association (APA)-accredited doctoral programs (Ph.D. and Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology); a specialist and a doctoral program in school psychology; master's degree programs in counseling clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, substance abuse counseling, and applied behavioral analysis), forensic psychology, experimental psychology, and general psychology; and bachelor's degree programs in psychology and behavioral neuroscience. The College of Psychology has two APA accredited doctoral internship programs, the South Florida Consortium Internship Program and the Psychology Services Center Internship program.

## NOTICES OF ACCREDITATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND NONDISCRIMINATION

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. The university is chartered by the State of Florida. The College of Psychology Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The College of Psychology Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The College of Psychology has two APA accredited doctoral internship programs, the South Florida Consortium Internship Program and the Psychology Services Center Internship program. Questions related to the programs' accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, D.C., 20002-4242, Phone: (202) 336-5979, Email: [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org), Web: [www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation). The college's master's degree program in school counseling and specialist program in school psychology are approved by the Florida Department of Education. In addition, the specialist and doctoral programs in school psychology holds the designation of National Recognition by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.