



Sandy Hook Promise Partners with the New Jersey Department of Education to Train Students on Gun Violence Prevention

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Media Contacts:

Dini von Mueffing Communications

Stephanie Morris

stephanie@dvmcpr.com

646-650-5005

New Jersey Department of Education

Carmen Cusido

carmen.cusido@doe.nj.gov

(609) 376-9072



Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is proud to announce that it is partnering with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to help train its students, educators, and school administrators on ways to identify, assess, intervene, and get help for those exhibiting at-risk behaviors through its *Start With Hello*, *Say Something*, and *SOS Signs of Suicide* programs.

More than 115,000 students in several school districts across the state will receive training through the STOP School Violence Act. The NJDOE was awarded \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Justice to support school violence prevention and has awarded SHP \$626,000 from the grant award for this endeavor.

"We are proud to work with New Jersey's Department of Education to teach teachers, students, and others how to spot and report at-risk behaviors before violence occurs," said Mark Barden, co-founder and managing director of Sandy Hook Promise and father of Daniel, a child who was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy in Connecticut in 2012.

"Sandy Hook Promise is being proactive in helping keep our children safe, and I'm happy we're partnering with them on this initiative," said New Jersey Department of Education Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet.

The *Start With Hello*, *Say Something*, and *SOS Signs of Suicide* are part of SHP's *Know the Signs* programs.

Start With Hello trains students to be more socially inclusive and connected to one another. *Say Something* trains students to recognize signs, especially on social media, of an individual who may be a threat to themselves or others and how to reach out to a trusted adult. The *SOS Signs of Suicide* program teaches students, educators, and school administrators how to spot the warning signs of youth suicide and how to intervene before self-harm occurs.

To date, Sandy Hook Promise has trained over 3.5 million youth and adults in at least one of its *Know the Signs* programs in all 50 states. The programs are credited with having helped avert multiple school shooting plots, numerous teen suicides, and other acts of violence and self-harm.

The STOP School Violence Act was introduced in the House of Representatives before the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February 2018. It builds off the research and lessons learned from mass school shootings and scales proven, evidence-based early intervention programming to schools across the country to prevent future acts of violence. Lawmakers passed and signed into law in March as part of the FY2018 omnibus funding bill. Sandy Hook Promise proudly worked with a bipartisan group of representatives to write and pass this legislation.

About Sandy Hook Promise: Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is a national, nonprofit organization based in Newtown, Connecticut. SHP is led by several family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. SHP's mission is to prevent gun violence

(and other forms of violence and victimization) BEFORE it happens by educating and mobilizing youth and adults to identify, intervene and get help for at-risk individuals. SHP is a moderate, above-the-politics organization that supports sensible program and policy solutions that address the “human-side” of gun violence by preventing individuals from ever getting to the point of picking up a firearm to hurt themselves or others. Our words, actions and impact nationwide are intended to honor all victims of gun violence by turning our tragedy into a moment of transformation.

For more information, visit www.sandyhookpromise.org or call [203-304-9780](tel:203-304-9780).