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SEVEN SCHOOLS SELECTED FOR THE IDAHO LIVES PROJECT

(BOISE) -- Seven Idaho schools have been selected to participate in the fourth cohort of the Idaho Lives Project, a partnership between the Idaho State Department of Education and the Suicide Prevention Action Network of Idaho (SPAN Idaho) to reduce the prevalence of suicide among youth ages 10-24 in Idaho.

Idaho ranks among the top ten states for teen suicides and overall suicides. Due to Idaho's rural geography, many students and families face barriers in accessing prevention services.

21 schools have already participated in the first three cohorts of the Idaho Lives Project to implement Sources of Strength, an evidence-based suicide prevention program that utilizes the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture to ultimately prevent suicide, bullying and substance abuse. The selected schools in all cohorts receive extensive support, training services and \$3,000 in funding to support Idaho Lives Project programs.

The following seven schools were selected after a blind review process based on their need and readiness to benefit. The selected schools are:

- Burley Junior High School, Burley
- Cassia Junior/Senior High School, Burley
- Minico High School, Rupert
- Mt. Harrison Junior/Senior High School, Heyburn
- Parkview/Ridgeline High School, Nampa
- Total Learning Center, Rupert
- West Minico Middle School, Paul

In addition to the school trainings, the Idaho Lives Project will work directly with the communities surrounding these schools to focus on training mental health providers and other stakeholders to prevent and respond to suicide crises.

The state was awarded \$1.29 million over three years to implement the Idaho Lives Project. This is the fourth cohort of schools selected to implement Sources of Strength. In the Fall of 2015, the Idaho Lives Project will select an additional seven schools to begin implementing Sources of Strength in the final grant cohort.

For more information about the Idaho Lives Project, please contact Matt McCarter at the Idaho State Department of Education at mamccarter@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6961, or contact Jeni Griffin at SPAN Idaho at jgriffin@spanidaho.org or (208) 860-1703.

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