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SDE announces grants for peer-based suicide prevention programs

(BOISE) – Students at 19 middle and high schools across Idaho will team with adult advisers to fight against teen suicide by decreasing risk factors and building positive influences, thanks to state Sources of Strength grants.

“Sources of Strength is a proven program that cultivates supportive relationships between students and trusted adults, and builds protective factors in youth such as hope, persistence and willingness to seek help,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “I’m thrilled that these schools across Idaho are embracing this resource to support their students and prevent future loss of life.”

Each school gets \$2,400 to support adult advisers in the schools and to help fund peer leader activities for students to imbed the ideas and messaging of Sources of Strength throughout the student body in the coming school year, Ybarra said. The program, launched in 2014, is part of the Idaho Lives Project, a joint effort of the State Department of Education and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare’s Suicide Prevention Program.

Schools selected for grants include South Junior High School in Boise, Heritage Middle School in Meridian, Sage Valley Middle School in the Vallivue School District, McCain Middle School in Payette, Middleton Middle School and Middleton High School. In the Kuna School District, grants go to Fremont Middle School, Kuna Middle School and Kuna High School.

Twin Falls High School, South Fremont High School in St. Anthony, Firth High School and Rockland School also are joining Sources of Strength.

In North Idaho, schools getting grants include Bonners Ferry High School, Wallace Junior Senior High School, Mullan Junior Senior High School, Clearwater Valley Junior Senior High in Kooskia, Timberlake Senior High School in Spirit Lake and Lakeland Senior High in Rathdrum.

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