



SCHOOL/LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

April 1, 2007

Dear Elementary and Middle School Administrators:

The California Department of Education and the Office of the Attorney General, through the School/Law Enforcement Partnership Program, are pleased to send you the enclosed copy of "To Save A Child," a 17-minute, award-winning documentary film that discusses how to prevent suicide by identifying students with depression.

Students labeled as sad, lonely, or overly aggressive may be mislabeled, and may be suffering from a genuine depressive disorder. These students often engage in high-risk behaviors, including alcohol and drug use, and violence, affecting their academic, social, and emotional well-being. As daily witnesses to changes in students' behavior and mood, classroom teachers and school staff are in excellent positions to recognize warning signs before a student's sadness, anger, or pain moves him or her toward suicide. The video is not designed to educate teachers on how to diagnose or label a child, but rather to encourage teachers to intervene by identifying the need for further assessment.

Also enclosed is a facilitator's guide designed to help the facilitator show the film in an effective manner to administrators, counselors, teachers, and classified staff. The guide contains discussion questions, tips on what schools can do, a list of warning signs, and resources for further information about youth suicide. We suggest you view and discuss the video at your next staff meeting.

Printing of the guide and duplication of the video are courtesy of the School/Law Enforcement Partnership. The information, ideas, suggestions, or facts presented in this video and guide may not necessarily reflect those of the School/Law Enforcement Partnership, nor does it constitute an endorsement of these products.

For more information about the video and *To Save A Child*, a suicide prevention program funded by the Trust Your Heart Foundation, please visit <http://tosaveachild.org>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Meredith Rolfe".

MEREDITH ROLFE
 Manager
 Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office
 California Department of Education

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Matson".

NANCY MATSON
 Director
 Crime and Violence Prevention Center
 Office of the Attorney General

Enclosures