



Students thrive in safe and healthy learning environments. Superintendent Sherri Ybarra’s initiative to Keep Idaho Students Safe, KISS for short, helps students thrive by addressing local safety and security concerns and equipping school personnel with a toolkit for student safety, all the while respecting local control. Supported by five elements, KISS addresses Idaho’s current partitioned approach and elevates school safety and security into a coordinated statewide partnership between local school districts and public charter schools, the State Department of Education, other state agencies and community stakeholders.

Alarming Facts We Can’t Ignore

Magnitude	Alarming Fact
21.7%	percentage of Idaho high schoolers who seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months ¹
25.8%	percentage of high schoolers bullied in the last 12 months ¹
29.6%	percentage of high schoolers who carried a weapon (gun, knife, club) in the past 30 days ¹
1 / Week	average number of school shootings in the U.S. from Jan. 2018 to May 2018 ²

How KISS Protects Students

School Safety Grants – formula-based, one-time money for school districts and public charter schools to address identified safety and security needs

School Safety Course – training on emerging trends in cyber-bullying, drug and alcohol use, violence, suicide prevention and risk behaviors helps school personnel prevent, identify and address potential threats

School Safety Tip Line – anyone can anonymously report concerns including risk behaviors, imminent threats and suicidal behavior to school authorities and law enforcement

Statewide Crisis Prevention Counselor – expert guidance and training for helping schools prevent, prepare for and respond to risk behaviors and crises

Existing Safety Resources – leveraging resources the state already provides for stopping bullying, preventing suicides, and providing guidance to schools for maximizing the effectiveness of tax dollars spent

Investing in Safety & Security

Idaho students can’t afford to wait for us to invest in school safety and security. That’s why Superintendent Ybarra requested that the legislature begin funding KISS in the current fiscal year.

KISS funding is sourced from Idaho’s General Fund, the revenue generated from sales and income taxes. These new dollars for student safety and school security do not take away or shift any resources that are already dedicated to education.

The total cost to implement KISS is \$20,001,300 which includes the one-time monies needed to fund the School Safety Grants. The ongoing operating cost for KISS is \$1,501,300 per year.

KISS Funding Requested

KISS Initiative Element	Cost
School Safety Grants *	\$18,500,000
School Safety Course	\$1,400,000
School Safety Tip Line **	\$0
Statewide Crisis Prevention Counselor	\$101,300
Existing Safety Resources ***	\$0

* This one-time funding was requested as a FY2019 Supplemental to ensure School Safety Grants could be distributed in early 2019.

** Since the Idaho Office of School Safety and Security was awarded grant funding, the SDE will withdraw its prior request for these funds.

*** Existing trainings, resources and activities are supported by programs already in place, therefore no new funds are being requested for this item.

Learn More, Stay Informed

Visit www.sde.idaho.gov/KISS to learn more about KISS and sign up for email updates. As always, your questions and feedback are welcome. Just email us at schoolsafety@sde.idaho.gov.

¹ <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/school-health/files/youth/2017-Youth-Risk-Behavior-Survey-Results.pdf>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/02/us/school-shootings-2018-list-trnd/index.html>