

2024

Suicide Prevention Services Report



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SAFETY COORDINATION | IDAHO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION
PROGRAM

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SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES OVERVIEW

House Bill 762, Section 3 (2024) appropriated \$350,000.00 for suicide prevention in K-12 public schools. As more students use personal smart phones to interact with peers and access information, the Idaho Department of Education believes there is value in exploring new ways to connect students with evidence-based information to support their health and wellness and ultimately improve student academic success.

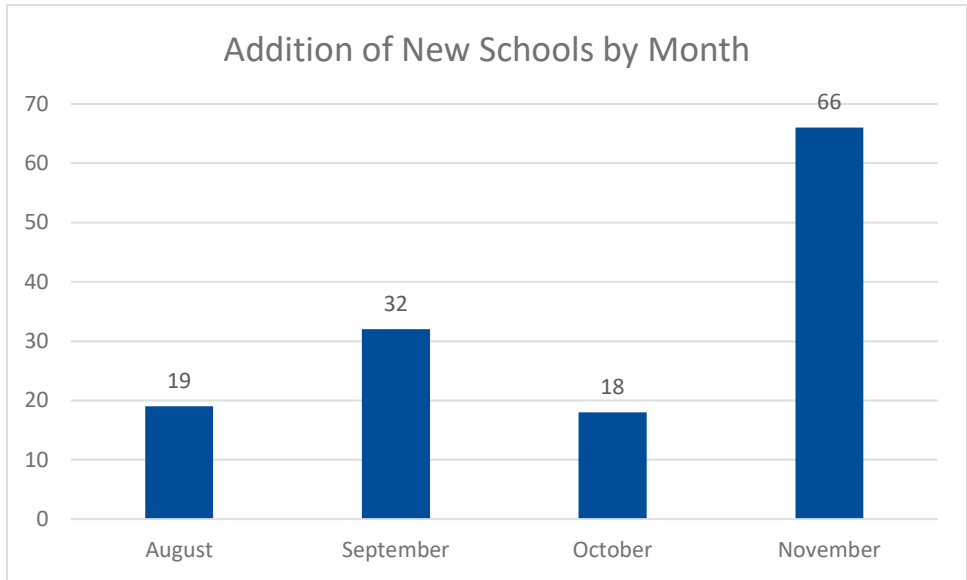
Through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the department sought outside entities that could provide suicide prevention and student wellness through messaging services and access to evidence-based resources for both students and the adults who support them. The department requested a platform that could provide real-time data to administrators and educators to help them better address school climate and student success challenges in order to prevent or mitigate concerns of student suicide and mental health wellness.

In August 2024, the department selected SchoolPulse to provide these services and signed a \$340,000.00 contract. SchoolPulse is based in Utah and has been providing services to K-12 school districts since 2017. In Idaho, SchoolPulse is offering multi-tier services to students in grades 6-12.

Districts and individual school buildings can receive:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly email campaigns sent to students and parents with videos designed to promote evidence-based positive psychology and growth mindset strategies.• Student wellness resources accessible to students and parents online and organized by topic of interest.• Live professional support and weekly inspirational texts, which require parent opt-in.

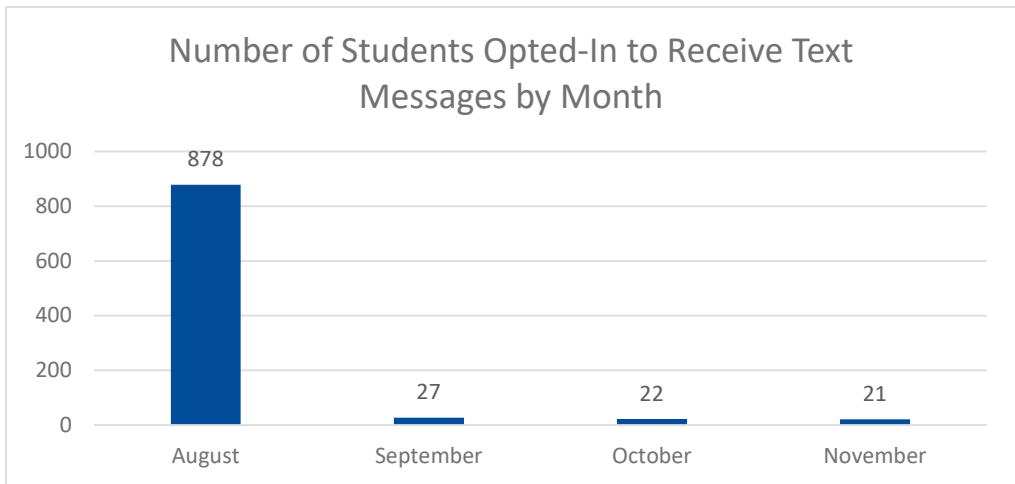
SCHOOLPULSE USAGE

Between August and November 2024, 135 secondary schools have signed up for SchoolPulse services. The following chart shows the number of schools that signed up by month. November saw a large increase in the number of schools requesting services. We anticipate that additional schools will continue to request services as more opportunities arise to promote SchoolPulse.

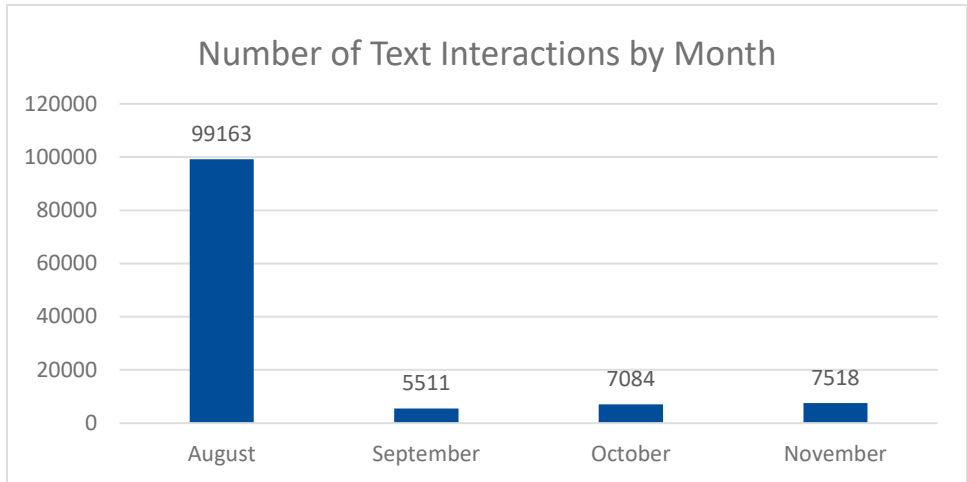


Text Services

Approximately 948 students have opted-in to receive weekly, live text-based support services. As shown in the chart, the number of students opted-in to receive text messages was high in August but has dropped in the following months.

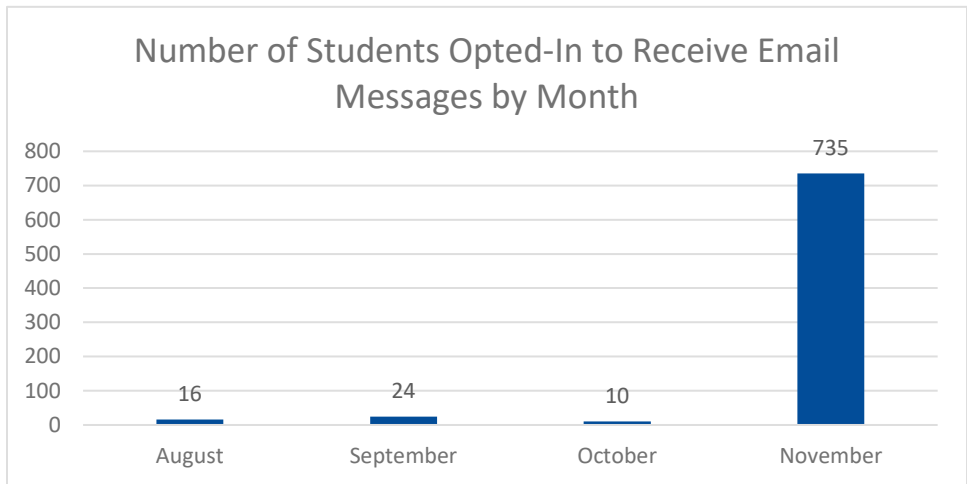


Among the 948 students, SchoolPulse has had 119,276 text interactions, which includes weekly emails sent out by SchoolPulse as well as any follow-up text interactions between students and SchoolPulse. On average, SchoolPulse interacts with each student approximately 119 times per month. The following chart shows the number of text messages sent to secondary student by month. Similar to the student opt-in numbers, messaging as declined since August.



Email Services

In addition, 785 students have been opted-in to receive weekly emails. As shown in the following chart, email opt-ins were low through October but saw a large increase in November. SchoolPulse has sent approximately 3,855 emails to these students.



Student Success Strategies

SchoolPulse also provides school administrators with strategies to help students succeed academically, be socially engaged in their schools and community, and to improve their decision-making abilities. Rather than remove students from the classroom or suspend them, administrators can assign one of these strategies to students to ensure they remain in school. Among schools taking advantage of these resources, students have completed 299 of these activities.

FINANCIAL

SchoolPulse has been paid \$136,000.00 for services rendered through November 2024. Per the agreement with SchoolPulse, they will continue to receive \$34,000.00 per month through June 2025 to provide these services at no additional cost to districts or schools. The department set aside \$10,000.00 to evaluate the effectiveness of the services provided by SchoolPulse and is currently seeking an outside entity to conduct the evaluation.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of suicide prevention and student wellness resources through SchoolPulse is going well. Because the partnership with SchoolPulse was announced in early September, after many schools had started the new school year, the department anticipated schools might be slow to sign up for services. September is a busy time of year for schools and administrators must balance the addition of new services with activities and events they have already prioritized. The department was pleased to see the jump in participation in November and credits the work SchoolPulse has done to provide schools the opportunity to watch a live demonstration of the services and ask questions by hosting weekly informational webinars.

The department estimates that approximately 40% of secondary schools have signed up to receive services through SchoolPulse. We will continue to assist SchoolPulse with their efforts to recruit more schools. The department would also like to see more parents and guardians opt their students into the email and text messaging services. Those usage numbers are much lower than expected and we will continue strategizing ideas with SchoolPulse to help engage more students in those resources.

The department is also in the early stages of identifying and selecting an evaluation agency who can assist with determining whether the suicide prevention and student wellness services provided by SchoolPulse are positively impacting students.