



Media Contact:
Brittany Campbell
Director of Student Support Services
bcampbell@esd101.net
509-789-3533

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2021

NEWESD 101 SELECTED TO LEAD LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION

SPOKANE, WA – The NorthEast Washington Educational Service District (NEWESD) 101 has been selected as the backbone organization for the Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition (PSSC).

As the new coordinator and fiscal agent, NEWESD 101 will lead the coalition in better leveraging skills, expertise and relationships among a passionate group of intra-disciplinary professionals committed to addressing Spokane's rising suicide rates and the pandemic's impact on community and mental health.

More specifically, these efforts will be led by NEWESD 101's Center for Student Support Services. "We believe that by addressing the needs of our community and working to prevent suicide for all, we will inherently offer our young people a brighter future. We are excited to lean into this important work, alongside our many incredible community partners," said Brittany Campbell, center director. The department currently offers youth suicide prevention training, curriculum and protocol resources to 59 public school districts, 45 state-approved private schools and three charter schools in the northeast Washington region, and has taken the local lead in community-based substance use prevention programming through five existing coalitions within Spokane County.

"The Prevent Suicide Coalition will benefit greatly from the skills and leadership of NEWESD 101," said Sabrina Votava, PSSC chair and president of FailSafe for Life, a local nonprofit dedicated to suicide prevention and awareness. "They have been an ongoing partner in the coalition and are clearly invested in the success of suicide prevention efforts."

Established in 2002, the PSSC relies on the collective volunteer efforts of local health and education organizations to strategize, share resources and information while serving as educators and communicators of suicide prevention in Spokane County. In 2019, over 60 participants representing 36 organizations engaged in PSSC's strategic planning initiative to set forth a three-year collaborative plan to address Spokane County suicide rates. With NEWESD 101 now at the helm of this effort, PSSC believes it is in a stronger position to implement the goals and objectives laid out in the strategic plan.

####

About NorthEast Washington Educational Service District (NEWESD) 101

NEWESD 101 promotes educational excellence by delivering essential, cooperative services to schools and other learning communities.

NEWESD 101 is responsible for the seven northeastern counties of the state, providing cooperative services in Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman counties. NEWESD 101 is the state's largest ESD in the number of districts served, counties served and geographic region served. To learn more, visit www.esd101.net.

NEWESD 101 • 4202 S Regal ST, SPOKANE, WA 99223 • ESD101.NET