

# Signs of Suicide® Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How long is each presentation?

All of our presentations fit into one class period. The minimum time needed for the presentation is 45 minutes but we can accommodate block scheduling and talk with groups of students for up to 90 minutes. The more time we give our presenters, the more in-depth they're able to go with the material and engage the students with discussions and activities.

### 2. What technology do you need for the SOS presentation?

All of our presentations have a power point presentation and our Signs of Suicide® presentations also have a video on a DVD. It is easiest if the school/venue is able to provide the projector, computer, and sound; however if this isn't possible with your set up, just let us know and we can bring our own equipment.

#### 3. How far in advance do we need to schedule?

The earlier a school or group schedules presentations, the better. While we do our best to accommodate all requests and the first date submitted, we do have a small team of presenters that go into over 150 schools and community organizations. Even if you don't know exact times you'll need a presenter, it's best to put in a request to lock in your day as soon as possible.

#### 4. How many presenters/presentations can we have in one day?

Most often we will send 1-2 presenters to a school for an entire day where they will speak to classes during the entire school day. If you need more than 2 presenters for a day, give us a call so we can work out the best days that work for you and our team. We do our best to accommodate all requests that come through.

#### 5. Can we do an all-school assembly?

The SOS program is best implemented in a classroom-sized group setting (no more than 35-40 students). The students respond better in the smaller groups and are more likely to ask for help if they need it.

#### 6. What about parent permission?

We always recommend involving the parents when CHADS is speaking to students. Knowing about the SOS presentation enables the parents to engage their students in conversation about depression, suicide, and other mental health issues. If you have questions about the best way to communicate with parents, contact us and we will help guide you.

### 7. Why does the counselor need to be available on the day of the presentations?

At the end of all of our presentations, we do a depression screening and ask students to fill out a self-ID slip. Based on how a student responds on the slip, the counselor may need to talk to them immediately (before the end of the school day) or within a few day (by the end of the week). It is paramount that the counselor and/or social worker is available before, during, and after presentations to see any students that self-ID as well as students that may be triggered by the content of the program. If you do not have a counselor or social worker, or if they are not available on the day of the presentation, contact Colleen Pace, SOS Program Manager, as soon as possible: 314-433-5743.



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# 8. How many students usually self-ID or ask to speak with a counselor?

The breakdown does vary by presentation and by grade level, but the average across all presentations throughout the year is 12%. Some schools have higher self-ID rates than others, and often times the first year CHADS presents in a school, the self-IDs are much higher. If your team needs extra help screening self-IDs, please contact CHADS as soon as possible.

**9. What does "self-ID" mean? Do all of the presentations ask students to self-ID?** Self-ID is the opportunity for the students to *confidentially* disclose if they'd like to speak with a counselor/social worker about themselves or someone they know. At the end of all of our SOS and EYES presentations, we do a depression screening (BSAD) and ask the students fill out a slip selecting one of three options:

- I would like to speak to someone <u>immediately</u> about myself or someone I know.
- 2) I would like to speak to someone within a few days about myself or someone I know.
- 3) I do not need to speak with anyone about myself or someone I know.

All students fill out the slip which is collected by the presenter and handed directly to the counselor or social worker to protect the privacy of the student.

#### 10. What do the EYES presentations cover? Can we do EYES before SOS?

Our EYES (Every Year, Every Student) programs are a follow up to the SOS® presentation. The SOS presentation is a foundation and the EYES presentations include a review of the signs of depression and suicide and in-depth information about an age-appropriate topic. A typical progression is as follows:

Fall of 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Signs of Suicide Middle School

Spring of 6th Grade: EYES Bully Free

7<sup>th</sup> grade: EYES Peer Pressure 8<sup>th</sup> grade: EYES Self-Injury

9<sup>th</sup> grade: Signs of Suicide High School 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade: Signs of Self-Injury

12<sup>th</sup> grade: SOS 2<sup>nd</sup> ACT: Life After High School

The presentations can be rearranged based on the needs of the school or even a particular class, but all students must have the SOS program before moving into the EYES programs.





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# **CHADS SOS Presentation Spec List**

# Signs of Suicide® Middle School & High School

- Projector
- Screen/Blank wall to project onto
- Ability to play DVD (this can be a DVD Player, a computer, etc.)
- Sound for DVD (laptop speakers aren't usually sufficient so we need something else to hook up to project the sound

#### EYES Bully Free, Peer Pressure, Self-Harm

- Projector
- Screen/Blank wall to project onto

#### SOS Self Harm®

- Projector
- Screen/Blank wall to project onto
- Ability to play DVD (this can be a DVD Player, a computer, etc.)
- Sound for DVD (laptop speakers aren't usually sufficient so we need something else to hook up to project the sound

# SOS 2<sup>nd</sup> ACT®

- Projector
- Screen/Blank wall to project onto
- Ability to play DVD (this can be a DVD Player, a computer, etc.)
- Sound for DVD (laptop speakers aren't usually sufficient so we need something else to hook up to project the sound

#### Training Trusted Adults®

- Projector
- Screen/Blank wall to project onto

