

ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION



**Student
Advocates**
for Mental Health

DIRECTING CHANGE PROJECTS

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) will support middle and high school students to develop videos for the California Directing Change Program and Film Contest. This statewide contest encourages students to create 30 and 60 second films to raise awareness about mental health and promote suicide prevention in their school communities.

OCDE's Student Advocates for Mental Health Program can provide training, technical assistance, materials, and a \$1,000 advisor incentive to a select number of Orange County schools to create and showcase films.

Directing Change Program and Film Contest Goals

- Promote awareness and education about mental health in a creative way
- Change and normalize conversations about mental health in school communities to increase help-seeking behaviors
- Advocate for a shift in mindset through the use of film to support destigmatizing mental health
- Inspire a new generation to better understand the warning signs of suicide and how to get help for themselves or a friend when concerned
- Promote school and community resources that support suicide prevention and mental health services

OCDE Directing Change Project Requirements

Participating schools must engage a minimum of five students and one advisor to develop a minimum of three youth-created videos, submit them to the California Directing Change Program and Film Contest by March 1, 2020, and host a showcase event for students, parents/caregivers, and/or staff. OCDE will provide a mental health workshop for participating students.

School administration should support the OCDE Directing Change Project evaluation, which will include conducting surveys with students who develop videos and a sample of students, parents/caregivers, and/or staff who participate in the showcase event.

The Student Advocates for Mental Health Program contributes to a Multi-Tiered System of Support and Local Control and Accountability Plan priorities by engaging students, families and community members, building social-emotional skills, and fostering a strong and positive school culture.

Funded by: OC Health Care Agency (OCHCA), Behavioral Health Services, Prevention and Intervention, Mental Health Services Act/Prop. 63



StigmaFreeOC



APPLY AT **OCDE.US/SAMH** BY **DECEMBER 15, 2020**

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