

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 an advisor incentive up to \$1000 to a select number of Orange County schools to create and showcase films.

## Directing Change Program and Film Contest Goals

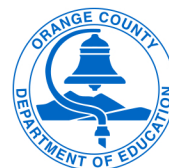
- Promote awareness and education about mental health in a creative way
- Change and normalize conversations about mental health in school communities to increase help-seeking behaviors
- Advocate for a shift in mindset through the use of film to support destigmatizing mental health
- Inspire a new generation 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

- Schools must engage a minimum of five students in the project to develop a minimum of three films and submit to the California Directing Change Program and Film Contest on or before March 1, 2024.
- Involve a minimum of five (5) student leaders in the development of Showcase Event. This can include youth who participated in the film development, and/or youth from a different class/club.
- A minimum of one school site advisor needs to support the development of student films.
- Advisors must work in close partnership with the school's counseling department, a student leadership class/club advisor and school administration to support students to develop a showcase event by May 17, 2024.

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 the OC Health Care Agency through the Mental Health Services Act.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION,  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [OCDE.US/SAMH](https://ocde.us/samh). DEADLINE TO APPLY IS SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**

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