

## WHY SHOULD MY SCHOOL DISTRICT JOIN LI-SPAN ?

### THE LONG ISLAND SCHOOL PRACTITIONER ACTION NETWORK

#### WHAT IS LI-SPAN?

- A voluntary network of school-based mental health crisis team members created to help schools meet the needs of students, staff, and families following a crisis event where needed resources may extend beyond what any given school district is able to provide on its own
- When such an event occurs, and upon consent being granted by the participating superintendent, participating districts may call upon LI-SPAN volunteers to assist the district in providing crisis response/intervention
- LI-SPAN consists of volunteers from various school districts that are available to provide onsite post-crisis support and follow-up services after the occurrence of a serious school crisis. LI-SPAN volunteers have received research-based training on crisis preparedness, response, and intervention (National Association of School Psychologists – specifically in the PREPaRE Workshop 2 [www.nasponline.org/prepare](http://www.nasponline.org/prepare) ) and are competent in evaluating psychological trauma (such as risk factors, warning signs, conducting psychological triage), providing interventions, and responding to psychological needs (such as reestablishing social supports, providing psychoeducation and psychological interventions).
- LI-SPAN volunteers speak the same language which enhances collaboration and communication. We utilize a structured approach to address crises that is consistent with a framework used by most public safety agencies (e.g., police and fire departments) while aligning with a multi-tiered system of student support

#### WHY JOIN LI-SPAN?

- All schools will experience some level of crisis at some point and schools must be equipped to respond to a range of crisis (e.g., natural disaster, community tragedy, student or staff death, suicide, school shooting, etc.)
- Effective crisis management is integral to the district's responsibility to safeguard the physical and psychological well-being of students and staff
- How schools respond to a crisis can shape the immediate and long-term effects on students and staff, including school-based crisis team first responders as well
- Good crisis planning, preparedness, and response can help mitigate traumatic impacts in the event of a crisis, can help build students' resilience and coping capacity, reduce negative trauma reactions, facilitate a return to learning, and strengthens families and school communities
- Good crisis planning, preparedness, and response may help protect districts from lawsuits regarding negligence

#### COSTS OF JOINING LI-SPAN

- The modest costs of participating in LI-SPAN are like those of an insurance policy; you hope you never need them, but are grateful when a crisis occurs and you benefit from the support that LI-SPAN provides.
- At least 1 person from the district must complete the NASP PREPaRE Workshop 2.
- One day per month for two hours, that PREPaRE-trained staff member attends no-cost training with other LI-SPAN mental health providers to ensure that training is up to date and coordination efforts are seamless.

#### HOW TO JOIN LI-SPAN:

- ***Please request a document package from Dr. Anthony Pantaleno at [apantaleno@aol.com](mailto:apantaleno@aol.com) and return the signed Memorandum of Understanding to Dr. Pantaleno as per instructions in the cover letter.***