

## **Students**

### **Suicide Prevention**

The Board of Trustees recognizes that suicide is a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. In order to attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent or designee shall develop preventative strategies, intervention and postvention procedures. Postvention procedures are the provision of crisis intervention, support and assistance for those affected by a completed suicide.

The Superintendent or designee may involve school health professionals, school counselors, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies and professionals, and community organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating the district's strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention procedures, and periodic review and update of the district's suicide prevention policy.

### **Prevention and Instructions**

Suicide prevention strategies may include, but not be limited to, efforts to promote a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.

The district's comprehensive health education program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development of students including, but not limited to, the development of problem-solving skills, coping skills, and self-esteem.

The Superintendent or designee may offer parent/guardians education or information which describes the severity of the youth suicide problem, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, risk factors and warning signs of suicide, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.

### **Staff Development**

Suicide prevention training for staff shall be designed to help staff identify and respond to students at risk of suicide. The training shall be offered under the direction of a district counselor/psychologist and/or in cooperation with one of more community mental health agencies and may include information on:

1. Research identifying risk factors, such as previous suicide attempt(s), history of depression or mental illness, substance use problems, family history of suicide or violence, feelings of isolation, interpersonal conflicts, a recent severe stressor or loss, family instability, and other factors.

2. Warning signs that may indicate suicidal intentions, including changes in students' appearance, personality, or behavior.
3. Research-based instructional strategies for teaching the suicide prevention curriculum and promoting mental and emotional health.
4. School and community resources and services
5. District procedures for intervening when a student attempts, threatens, or discloses the desire to commit suicide.

## Intervention

Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, he/she shall promptly notify the principal or school counselor. The principal or counselor shall then notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible and may refer the student to mental health resources in the school community.

## Suicide Postvention

The superintendent or designee shall establish crisis intervention procedures to ensure students safety and appropriate communications in the event that a suicide occurs or an attempt is made on campus or at school-sponsored activity. The goals of postvention include supporting the survivors, preventing imitation suicides by identifying other individual who are at risk for self-destructive behavior and connecting them to intervention services.

### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan

41533 Professional Development Block Grant, suicide prevention training for teachers

49060-49079 Student records

49602 Confidentiality of student information

49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

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