

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that school personnel who regularly interact with students are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. In an effort to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing measures and strategies for use by the District, the Superintendent or designee may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, suicide prevention experts, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

Such measures and strategies shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and other District employees who interact with students in the secondary grades

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

2. Instruction to students in problem-solving and coping skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being

(cf. 6142.8 - Health Education)

3. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

SUICIDE PREVENTION (cont.)

4. Encouragement for students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions
5. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts
6. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth. (Education Code 215)

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. (Education Code 215)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

215 Student Suicide Prevention Policies
32280-32289 Comprehensive Safety Plan
49060-49079 Student records
49602 Confidentiality of student information
49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors

GOVERNMENT CODE

810-996.6 Government Claims Act

PENAL CODE

11164-11174.3 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

5698 Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent
5850-5883 Mental Health Services Act

COURT DECISIONS

Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve, 2008
Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve, 2003

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS

School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide, Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide, A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012
National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, 2012

SUICIDE PREVENTION (cont.)

WEBSITES

American Association of Suicidology: www.suicidology.org

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: www.afsp.org

American Psychological Association: www.apa.org

American School Counselor Association: www.schoolcounselor.org

California Department of Education, Mental Health: www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh

California Department of Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program:

www.dhcs.ca.gov/services.MH/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health: www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth

National Institute for Mental Health: www.nimh.nih.gov

National Institute for Mental Health: www.nimh.nih.gov

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration: www.samhsa.gov

Chino Valley Unified School District

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