



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are concerned about the safety and welfare of your child. We have been made aware that your child may be suicidal. All expressions of suicidal behavior are taken very seriously within the Beaverton School District and we would like to support you and your student as much as possible during this time. To assure the safety of your child, we suggest the following:

1. Your child needs to be supervised closely. Research shows that risk of suicide doubles if a firearm is in the house, even if the firearm is locked up. Assure that your child does not have access to firearms or other lethal means, including medications and other weapons at your house or at the home of neighbors, friends, or other family members. The local police department or your School Resource Officer at your child’s school can discuss with you different ways of removing, storing, or disposing of firearms.
2. We strongly recommend that your child be seen by a qualified mental health professional for assessment and on-going counseling. Someone from your child’s school can assist you in this process or you can contact your insurance company directly.
3. Your child will need support during this crisis. Your child may need reassurance that you love them and will get them the care he/she needs. Be patient and calm, but also convey that you are concerned. Show love and seek out the help your child needs with no strings attached. Take threats and gestures seriously. Don’t tease, challenge, or be sarcastic. Keep communication open and nonjudgmental. Avoid saying anything demeaning or devaluing while conveying empathy, warmth, and respect. Be careful not to display anger towards your child for bringing up this concern or show resentment because you had to leave work or face other inconveniences in order to ensure your child’s safety.
4. We may need to develop a re-entry plan with you before he/she can return to school. A representative from the school may contact you to schedule a meeting with you, your child, and school staff members. This is to ensure your child’s safety while at school.

If you have an immediate concern for your child’s safety, please call the Washington County Crisis Line at (503) 291-9111. Counselors are available 24 hours a day and can advise you on the most appropriate action to keep your child safe.

In case of emergency, call 911 or go to any hospital emergency room. The nearest hospitals with a child/adolescent psychiatric unit are:

Legacy Emmanuel Hospital
2800 North Vancouver Avenue
Portland, OR 97227-1644
(503) 413-2902

Portland Willamette Falls Medical Center
1500 Division Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 722-3730

Depending on the circumstances, please know that failure to seek treatment for a child who is suicidal may meet the legal definition of neglect and could result in a mandated report to the Department of Human Services Child Welfare. All BSD staff members are mandatory reporters.

Student Name _____ Date _____

School Support Member’s Signature _____