

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

The Indian River School District is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state, and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness prevention; establish methods of prevention, intervention, response to suicide or suicide attempt, and reporting procedures. In accordance with 14 DEL §4124, the Indian River School District will adhere to procedures set forth in the administrative regulation JG.4.

Suicide Prevention Training for Employees

Each employee of the Indian River School District shall participate in at least one combined training each year totaling at least ninety minutes in suicide prevention. The training materials shall be evidenced-based and approved by the Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. More than one training program may be approved and, if so, the Indian River School District has discretion on the training it requires for its school employees. Any in-service training required by this section shall be provided within the contracted school year as provided in 14 Del.C. § 1305(e). All employees shall provide proof of participation and completion. Prior to student arrival to start the school year, each building administrator will provide professional development to all faculty members including bus drivers regarding the procedures for reporting and alerting administration regarding immediate reporting of suicide threats, suicide attempts, expressed suicidal ideations by or about any student as outlined in the *Faculty Requirement for Reporting* section of this document. Administration is required to submit a sign in sheet to the assistant superintendent by the end of returning teacher week. Employees hired after the start of the school year will be made aware of this policy/procedures.

Suicide Prevention Program

The Indian River School District is committed to support each school in its adoption of a school-wide suicide prevention program. Each school is directed to develop or adopt a school-wide, research-based suicide prevention program. The components of the program may vary to address the needs of the different grade levels within the school. All programs shall include mandates for the immediate reporting of suicide threats, suicide attempts, expressed suicidal ideations by or about any student. The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee established pursuant to Section III shall be responsible for the implementation of the program.

Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee

Each school shall establish a committee that is responsible for coordinating the Suicide Prevention Program within the school. The committee may be comprised of at least the following school-based personnel: Administration, School Counselor, Mental Health Counselor if present within the school, Nurse, and other staff members as assigned. The committee shall meet throughout the school year to discuss topics such as trainings, programs, and others as it relates to Suicide Prevention. The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee shall follow procedures as outlined in the Indian River School District's administration regulation JG.4.

Posting of the Suicide Prevention Policy

The Indian River School District shall post this Suicide Prevention Policy in all student and staff handbook(s) and on the Indian River School District's website. If no handbook is available, or it is not practical to reprint new handbooks, a copy of this policy will be distributed annually to all students, parents, faculty, and staff.

Faculty Requirements for Reporting

All faculty members must immediately (within 5 minutes) speak directly to a member of the school based mental health team and an administrator to report suicide threats, suicide attempts, expressed suicidal ideations by or about any student. The student presenting a safety concern must immediately be accompanied by the reporting staff member, an administrator, or a member of the school based mental health team to a designated area where the student will be monitored at all times. At no time is the student to be left alone until a trained team member determines the student does not present a threat or the student has been released to a parent/guardian or other appropriate agency.

Retaliation Restrictions

No employee, school volunteer, or student shall be retaliated against for reporting a student thought to be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide.

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Reviewed 3/13/23