

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth and that all suicide threats must be taken seriously.

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.

The district shall also provide students, parents/guardians and staff with education that helps them recognize the warning signs of severe emotional distress and take preventive measures to help potentially suicidal students.

In developing policy and strategies for suicide prevention and intervention, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders such as administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, and students; school-employed mental health professionals such as school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses; suicide prevention experts such as local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations; law enforcement; and, in developing policy for grades seven to twelve, the county mental health plan.

(California Education Code 215, Assembly Bill 2246)

The Board shall ensure that measures and strategies for students in grades 7-12 are age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. (Education Code 215).

Measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention 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, as described in the accompanying administrative regulation.
2. Instruction to students in problem-solving and coping skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others
3. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.
4. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that

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can help youth in crisis.

5. 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.

6. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts.

7. 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 (LGBTQ). (Education Code 215)

All staff, serving students in grades 7-12, shall receive annual professional development on risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention.

(cf. [1400](#) - Community Relations: Relations with other Governmental Agencies and the ROP)

(cf. [4131](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [4231](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [6164.2](#) - Guidance Services)

Staff shall promptly report suicidal threats or statements to the administrator, school counselor, school nurse, or school psychologist who shall report the threats or statements to the student's parents/guardians as soon as it is practical to do so. School employees will act only within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential or license, as based on job description. These statements shall otherwise be kept confidential.

Police and the Department of Behavioral Health's CCRT (Community Crisis Response Team) or the Los Angeles County Mental Health may be notified in case a student needs to be transported to the hospital.

(cf. [5141](#) - Health Care and Emergencies)

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging district employees to diagnose or treat mental illness unless they are specifically licensed and employed to do so.

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(Education Code 215)

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

The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the district's web site, in a prominent location and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 234.6) Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References Description

Ed. Code 215 Student suicide prevention policies

Ed. Code 215.5 Student identification cards, inclusion of safety

hotlines Ed. Code 216 Suicide prevention online training programs

Ed. Code 234.6 Bullying and harassment prevention information

Ed. Code 32280-32289.5 Comprehensive safety plan

Ed. Code 49060-49079 Student records

Ed. Code 49602 Confidentiality of student information

Ed. Code 49604 Suicide prevention training for school

counselors Gov. Code 810-996.6 Government Claims Act

Pen. Code 11164-11174.3 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

Act W&I Code 5698 Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative

intent W&I Code 5850-5886 Children's Mental Health

Services Act Management Resources References **Description**

California Department of Education Publication Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools,

Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008

California Department of Education Publication Health Framework for California Public Schools,

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Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2019

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Publication

School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009
Court Decision *Corales v. Bennett* (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554

Nat'l Assoc. of School Psychologists Publication Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for
Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Publication National Strategy for Suicide Prevention:
Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Publication Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High

Schools, 2012 WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

5698 Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent

Management Resources:

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Suicide Prevention Program for California Schools, 1987

Health Framework for California Public Schools, 1994

Model School District Policy on Suicide Prevention; The Trevor Project, American School
Counselor Association, National Association of School Psychology, American Foundation for
Suicide Prevention, 2017 The Trevor Project. All rights reserved.

Assembly Bill 2246 Pupil suicide prevention policies, September 2016

Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), Kelly Posner, Ph.D., version 6/2010

Website Suicide Prevention Lifeline -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/afV0kpluspY6dedsmutWePi1w==>

Website Suicide Prevention Resource Center -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/2cfjFY4ju3lrj8NMBvPa0g==>

Website American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/FEUu0bQA19UxSaw3Wtfi0A>

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Website American Association of Suicidology

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/2epimFF2un2Frplus9gZent5w>

Website American Psychological Association

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/whnZxkEv3ftXIzAgq4Eknw>

Website California Department of Education, Mental Health

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/U8ybLhobslshezvvd8YxPBK>

Website California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health
Services

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/lhJ9lBnSx33gyv3jSdm7LQ>

Website Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/zljgm8LlDIJLplusGWxslshSbPEQ>

Website National Association of School Psychologists

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/2Pbs2eIslshfyVi8hrLAnCIslshQ>

Website National Institute for Mental Health

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/IYEsleokeWiWcCFo92HqaA>

Website Trevor Project

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/YGdplusizjTY5ffqCzyaC432A>

Website

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

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/fqslshmylnfegyQnF2VZzOl5g>

Website American School Counselor Association

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/R1ggYp24tGNHpluszwmaMrEvg> Cross References

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Description

0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/r4vTslshoYLVujplusGaGRffa0mA>

0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/H5ZxOaslshHOeexslshGjrvQ4J5Q0>

470 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/gx6z1OE0WF1n2Des17d7IA>

1400 Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/2slshOddASnpRgaSFRbxqwJpQ>

3515 Campus Security

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/f6i6slshR6cGolXslshmoldU69iw>

3515 Campus Security

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/WKgaiEXXQzkZR3wljM36Q>

4131 Staff Development

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/mplusfJtQCJn0ArH43NKz32QQ42>

31 Staff Development

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/YX9IZdvUEZNtp9AuLVbcSw>

5125 Student Records

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/ZvxF6XkQA2GslshUjbMslshh0H0Q>

5125 Student Records

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/3plusp31Lkmh0LChplusQ18aDY6w>

5131 Conduct

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/rcn2VGELy8pB5ycAAiZE9w>

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5131.2 Bullying

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/tDboClNOvOslshQiptfXslshzJmA>

5131.2 Bullying

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/f2cYyaJzLvsvMmt1BZQC0Q>

5131.6 Alcohol And Other Drugs

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/ehwaVjHFsKfboxMDjfETjQ>

5131.6 Alcohol And Other Drugs -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/xzplusi2SplusKSeQu0AFVCplusJC5g>

5131.8 Mobile Communication Devices

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/LiV8VhZLai3nuA7Sw2q4HA>

5137 Positive School Climate

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/jRjgplusopnUd0uMgyHO1dvGw>

5138 Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/zrtUWyLBw90n4vZ5zZslsh5Rg>

5141 Health Care And Emergencies -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/jBuNCsiUislsh2HEvakqQPHvA>

5141 Health Care And Emergencies

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/3kRQYo1qgPRDQdnVRVeBlw>

5141.4 Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/sXGCgqmDS6gnPGrBTceIeQ>

5141.4 Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/u2ot8rMOZrxSYghmhMiNvQ>

5141.6 School Health Services

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/mpMwocGFcF5WmFMN2Mdde>

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5141.6 School Health Services

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/eslshfkwtocdMUhIvbzzzvxxgg>

5142 Safety - <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/dz5K1iBya2cVuscLfedvSg>

5142 Safety

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/5slshapUAxOA1sFMKxHhrA7ag>

5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/3RLPKjNPnN7ZGURJ4LNGYw>

5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/CUCON6Qd8nkjOdIjoQgkAQ>

5145.7 Sexual Harassment

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/E7h3EO9DD8llqYN6cMgv4Q>

5145.7 Sexual Harassment

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/T5Lzfk3slshqNsWLeXOOYuFrQ>

5145.9 Hate-Motivated Behavior

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/2C1cOntr2lsnbJtzyV3eHQ>

6142.8 Comprehensive Health Education

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/Fxzfr7ncsUmly1Bp3FM3KA>

6142.8 Comprehensive Health Education

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/MI295bVYUYZO2gOy5KViWQ>

6164.2 Guidance/Counseling Services

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/PbMOojoIGWaiCvxEeZkuDQ>