## Suicide Prevention and Intervention

### Management of Suicidal Risk

The Bethany Public School District (District) cannot be expected to thoroughly evaluate and eliminate suicidal risk. Nevertheless, the Bethany Board of Education (Board) is committed to responding in a supportive manner, both aggressively and immediately, to a student who has attempted, has threatened, or is seriously considering attempting suicide. The following procedures shall be implemented toward this end.

I. Any staff member who becomes aware of a student who may be at risk of suicide must immediately notify the school administration or designee. This must be done even if the student has confided in the staff person and asked that the student's communication be kept confidential. The school administration or designee will then notify the appropriate intervention staff member.

II. The intervention staff member shall interview the student, consider available background information, and determine whether the student is "at risk" or in "imminent danger."

III. If the student is assessed to be "at-risk:"

A. The intervention staff member shall notify the student's parent/guardian and request a meeting with them as soon as possible, preferably that same day.

B. When the parent/guardian arrives at school, the intervention staff member shall meet with the parent/guardian to discuss:

1. the seriousness of the situation;

2. the need for an immediate suicide risk evaluation at a medical or mental health facility, or other appropriate evaluation(s);

3. the need for continued monitoring of the student at home if the student is released following the evaluation;

4. referral to appropriate professional services outside the school system; and

5. a request for the parent/guardian to sign a release of information form permitting communication between the school and the facility to which the student will be taken, the student's therapist, and other appropriate individuals.

C. The intervention staff member shall document in writing the course of events, including what transpired at the meeting, and the outcome.

D. If the parent/guardian does not follow through, thereby leaving the student "at risk," a medical referral to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) should be made. The parent/guardian should be notified as soon as possible that such a referral has been made.

E. The intervention staff member may notify other staff, as necessary to protect the student and others.

F. The intervention staff member may refer the student to the school's Child Study Team, Mental Health Team, Planning Placement Team, or other staff as appropriate for further consultation and planning.

G. The intervention staff member or the team shall monitor the student's progress and shall consult as necessary with family, outside professionals, and school staff.

IV. If the student is assessed to be "in imminent danger:"

A. The intervention staff member shall ensure that the student is not left alone.

B. The intervention staff member shall notify the parent/guardian and request that the student be picked up at school and taken to a medical or mental health professional for thorough suicidal risk evaluation.

C. When the parent/guardian arrives at school, the intervention staff member shall meet with the parent/guardian to discuss:

1. the seriousness of the situation;

2. the need for an immediate suicide risk evaluation at a medical or mental health facility, or other appropriate evaluation(s);

3. the need for continued monitoring of the student at home if the student is released following the evaluation;

4. referral to appropriate professional services outside the school system; and

5. a request for the parent/guardian to sign a release of information form permitting communication between the school and the facility to which the student will be taken, the student's therapist, and other appropriate individuals.

D. The intervention staff member shall document in writing the course of events, including what transpired at the meeting, and the outcome.

E. The intervention staff member shall inform the school administration of the course of events and the outcome.

F. The intervention staff member may notify other staff, as necessary to protect the student and others.

G. The intervention staff member may refer the student to the school's Child Study Team, Mental Health Team, Planning and Placement Team, or other staff as appropriate for further consultation and planning.

H. If the parent/guardian is unable to come to school:

1. The intervention staff member shall provide, over the telephone, information as to available resources outside and within the school system, and shall plan follow-up contacts.

2. The intervention staff member will notify the parent/guardian of the staff member's intent to and arrange transport of the student to an appropriate evaluation/treatment site by means of emergency vehicle (e.g., ambulance or police cruiser).

3. Police may be notified if the student poses a threat to the safety of themselves or others, or as dictated by other circumstances.

4. The intervention staff member shall document in writing the course of events and the outcome.

5. The intervention staff member shall inform the school administration of the course of events and the outcome.

I. If the parent/guardian does not agree with the school's determination that the student is in imminent danger or for any other reason refuses to take action:

1. The intervention staff member shall meet with the school administration to develop an immediate plan focused on protection of the student.

2. The intervention staff member shall notify the parent/guardian of the plan and shall either a) inform the parent/guardian that DCF will be contacted and a medical neglect referral made if the parent/guardian remains uncooperative, or b) inform the parent or guardian and student that the police will be called if the parent or guardian or student remains uncooperative.

3. The intervention staff member shall arrange for an emergency vehicle to transport the student to the hospital or an appropriate mental health facility; shall inform hospital staff of the situation; shall plan follow-up in relation to hospital staff or mental health facility staff decisions as to how to proceed.

4. The intervention staff member shall consult and cooperate with DCF and/or the police, as necessary.

5. The intervention staff member shall document in writing the course of events and the outcome.

J. When a student assessed to have been "in imminent danger" returns to the school, the PPS staff member or the appropriate school-based team (if such referral has been made) shall coordinate consultation with outside professionals, supportive services in school, and changes in the instructional program, when necessary.

**Suicide Education/Prevention - Students and Staff**

I. As part of Bethany Community School's Health Education Curriculum and Developmental Guidance Curriculum, students will be educated regarding suicide risk factors and danger signals, and how they might appropriately respond if confronted with suicidal behavior, verbalizations, or thoughts.

II. Annually, in-service training for school staff will be held in the school to discuss suicide risk factors, danger signals, and the procedures outlined in these regulations.

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