# Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Legislation for K-12 LEAs

## Quick Guide

### SUICIDE PREVENTION

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| **AB1767**  
Amends Section 215 of Ed. Code  
Requires the governing board or body of a LEA that serves pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 6 to adopt, and update as prescribed, a policy on pupil suicide prevention | January 2020 | The policy must:  
✓ be age-appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young pupils  
✓ be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals and suicide prevention experts  
✓ specifically address the needs of high-priority youth groups  
✓ address any training on suicide awareness and prevention to be provided to teachers of pupils in grades 1-6  
✓ ensure proper coordination and consultation with the county mental health plan if a referral is made for mental health or related services on behalf of a pupil who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary  
✓ be updated every five years | • Reference the AB1767 Suicide Prevention Resource Guide for Elementary Schools for evidence-based curriculum, programming and training.  
• Train all school staff in suicide prevention and mental health awareness. | • **AB1767 Suicide Prevention Resource Guide for Elementary Schools**  
• **Suicide Prevention Guide for High Priority Youth Groups**  
• **CDE Model Policy** |
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<th><strong>SB972</strong></th>
<th><strong>AB2639</strong></th>
<th><strong>January 2019</strong></th>
<th><strong>September 2018</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Adds Section 215.5 to Ed. Code</strong>&lt;br&gt;Requires any public or private school that issues student ID cards and serves pupils in grades 7-12 to print the phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) on the ID cards</td>
<td><strong>Amends Section 215 of Ed. Code</strong>&lt;br&gt;Requires LEAs to review their suicide prevention policies at least every five years</td>
<td>✓ Print the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) on student ID cards for grades 7-12.</td>
<td>✓ Suicide prevention policies must be reviewed and updated, if necessary, at least every five years.</td>
<td>✓ Teach students how and why to use the hotline numbers.</td>
<td>✓ Review and update your policy annually.</td>
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<td>✓ Schools may also print the Crisis Text Line (741-741) and a local suicide prevention hotline on either side of the ID cards.</td>
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<td><strong>AB1808</strong> Adds section 216 to Ed. Code</td>
<td>June 2018 – June 2024</td>
<td>• Free, online training provides an option to train middle and high school staff in suicide prevention and meet one of the requirements of AB2246.</td>
<td>• In addition to staff, use this online training for middle and high school students (ages 13+).</td>
<td>• <strong>LivingWorks Start Training</strong></td>
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<td>Provides funding for an online training to ensure school staff are prepared to identify, support, and refer middle and high school students who may be experiencing thoughts of suicide</td>
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| **AB2246** Adds Article 2.5 commencing with Section 215 Ed. Code | July 2017 | The policy must: ✓ be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, the county mental plan, school-employed mental health professionals and suicide prevention experts ✓ specifically address the needs of high-priority youth groups (see Suicide Prevention Guide for High Priority Youth Groups) ✓ include procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention ✓ include suicide awareness and prevention training for teachers that includes how to identify appropriate mental health services, both at the school site and also within the larger community | • Train all school staff in suicide prevention and mental health awareness. • Train multiple staff members in suicide intervention. | • **CDE Model Policy** • **Suicide Prevention Guide for High Priority Youth Groups** • **SDCOE 2023-24 Trainings** • **LivingWorks Start Training** |
community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services

- ensure that a school employee acts only within the authorization and scope of the employee’s credential or license

## MENTAL HEALTH

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| SB224                   | January 2022 | Mental health instruction must include:
  - overarching themes and core principles of mental health
  - defining signs and symptoms of common mental health challenges
  - evidence-based and culturally responsive supports, services and practices that help to manage mental health challenges
  - promotion of wellness and protective factors
  - ability to identify warning signs of common mental health problems
  - how to look for and find assistance from the LEA
  - connection between mental health and academic success and co-occurring conditions
  - awareness and appreciation for the prevalence of mental health challenges across social groups | | | • [Wellness Education Lab](#) |
| AB748 | Beginning of the 2023-24 school year | The poster must be prominently and conspicuously displayed in appropriate public areas that are accessible to, and commonly frequented by, students at each school site. Poster shall be no smaller than 8.5” by 11” with at least 12-point font and shall display, at a minimum, all of the following:  
- common behaviors of those struggling with mental health or who are in a mental health crisis  
- contact information for school site-specific and community resources  
- positive coping strategies  
- negative coping strategies to avoid |  
- Share the posters digitally.  
- Consider displaying inside bathroom stalls. |  
- SDCOE Mental Health Assistance Posters

**AB748**  
Adds Section 49428.5 to Ed. Code  
Requires each school site serving students in grades 6 to 12, inclusive, to create a poster that identifies approaches and shares resources regarding student mental health.