

***Mesa County Valley School District 51***

**KDE(1)**

**Suicide Prevention**

Adopted: June 20, 2017

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The Board recognizes the importance of protecting the health and well-being of all District students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

The superintendent shall designate a staff member who shall be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy for the school district.

School based staff with regular student contact shall receive annual professional development on the prevention, intervention and postvention regarding youth suicide. Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention shall be provided to school employed mental health professionals. All staff members shall report students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to a trained mental health professional.

All district students in grades 3 – 12 shall receive age-appropriate, student-centered education regarding safe and healthy choices, coping strategies and help-seeking strategies, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help. In addition, all students in grades 6-12 shall receive education in the recognition of risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide.

The district shall encourage and support student advisory group(s) to be involved in suicide prevention activities in schools.