

Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention

The Committee recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people in this country. In order to promote the safety, health and well-being of students, the Bristol Warren Regional School District will provide students with appropriate information about suicide awareness/prevention as well as resources available to assist at-risk students with schools and from community/mental health organizations.

Suicide is a complex issue and school staff cannot be expected to make clinical assessments of students. However, the School Committee does expect any school staff member who has knowledge of a suicide threat or student in crisis to immediately report the matter to the building administrator/designee.

Curricula and Training

Per the Nathan Bruno/Jason Flatt Act, suicide prevention curricula for grades 6-12 and staff professional development will be selected from the Rhode Island Department of Education's approved list.

Suicide Intervention

This work will be connected to School Safety Plans, School Emergency Response Plans and School Crisis Response Plans.

In every case, parents must be notified to ensure that the youth receive the necessary care. Schools may require a re-entry letter from a student's mental health provider prior to allowing a student to return to school. The student will be assessed by a certified District Mental Health professional to determine readiness to return to school, if no letter is provided. This may be determined on a case by case basis given the details of each situation. The school's role of "en loco parentis" requires that the health and safety of each youth is given consideration.

Suicide Postvention

Postvention includes counseling or other care given to students after another student's suicide or attempted suicide. It may include counseling to students that have made a suicide attempt or have reported ideation. This counseling shall consist of regular check-ins, as determined by a mental health professional. Schools may delineate the roles and responsibilities of people on the school crisis team for postvention.

ADOPTED: November 14, 2022

REFERENCE: JLIF-R RI Model Policy on Suicide Prevention