

**Tumwater School District
Board Policy**

SUICIDE/SELF-HARM PREVENTION

The Tumwater School District Board of Directors recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that suicidal/self-harm indicators such as substance abuse and violence are complex issues that should be taken seriously. While district staff may recognize potentially suicidal youth and the district can make an initial risk assessment, the district cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Instead, the board directs district staff to refer students who exhibit suicidal/self-harm behaviors to an appropriate service for further assessment and counseling.

District staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat or self-harming behaviors must take the proper steps to support the student and to report this information to the building principal or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family and appropriate resource services.

The board also recognizes the need for youth suicide/self-harm prevention procedures. The district will adopt and, at the beginning of each school year, provide to all district staff, including substitute and regular bus drivers, a plan for recognizing, screening, referring and responding to students in emotional or behavioral distress. At a minimum, the plan will:

- Identify training opportunities for staff on recognizing, screening and referral of students in emotional or behavioral distress, including those who exhibit indicators of substance abuse, violence or suicide/self-harm;
- Describe how to utilize the expertise of district staff trained in recognition, screening and referral;
- Provide guidelines, based on staff expertise, for responding to suspicions, concerns or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress;
- Address development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to support services, to include development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the district and one such entity;
- Contain procedures for communication with parents;
- Describe how staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;
- Describe how the district will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence or self-harm student suicide.

Cross References: 3211 - Transgender Students
 3207 - Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and
 Bullying

Legal References: RCW 28A.410.226 Washington professional educator standards board — Training program on youth suicide screening — Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors — Adoption of standards.
RCW 28A.410.043 School Counselor Certification
RCW 28A.320.1271 Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.
RCW 28A.320.127 Plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.

Management Resources: 2014 - December Issue
2011 - April Issue

ADOPTION DATE: December 8, 2016