

STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

General Framework

Policy 457

With the goals of promoting students' well-being, intervening with students who may be identified as struggling or in crisis, reducing actual or attempted incidents of youth suicide and other forms of self-endangerment, and responding appropriately to any such incident that has a connection to the District, the School Board directs the administration to address youth suicide prevention and intervention through a multi-faceted approach that includes at least the following components:

1. Initiatives to increase staff awareness of issues related to youth suicide, including, at a minimum and as required under state law, providing annual notice to the District's licensed staff of the suicide prevention resources and services that are available through the Department of Public Instruction.
2. Additional periodic professional development opportunities for appropriate staff, as determined by the administration, that relate to youth suicide prevention and intervention. Such opportunities may be voluntary or required and may be provided internally or through external sources.
3. Age-appropriate instructional programming for students in the area of personal development that, as required under state law, is designed to address matters such as:
 - a. The promotion of students' positive social and emotional development;
 - b. The promotion of positive psychological, emotional, and problem-solving responses among students;
 - c. Skills that help students cope with social change; and
 - d. At appropriate developmental levels, instruction that addresses the causes and signs of suicidal ideation/tendencies or other forms of self-harm, knowledge of the relationship between youth suicide and the use of alcohol and controlled substances, and knowledge of youth suicide prevention and intervention services that are available in the community.
4. The incorporation of services and resources that address student mental health needs, positive social and emotional development, and suicide prevention and intervention within the District's approach to providing guidance and counseling programs and services for students.
5. The incorporation of suicide intervention and response components within the District's crisis intervention and response procedures, including appropriate communication of such procedures to staff.
6. The identification of and, where feasible, the engagement of cooperative efforts with relevant agencies, community organizations, and other experts. This may include identifying qualified agencies or organizations that:
 - a. Offer consultative services to school professionals related to youth suicide prevention, intervention, and response; or
 - b. Serve as emergency and non-emergency points of contact for youth who may be experiencing a suicidal crisis or other form of emotional distress and/or for students or families who may have related concerns regarding themselves or others.

Assignment of Responsibility

The District Administrator, Building Principals, and School Counselors shall have primary administrative responsibility and accountability to the Board for overseeing and coordinating the District's approach to youth suicide prevention and intervention in a manner that is consistent with the above-identified general framework and the specific mandates found in state law.

State Civil Liability Exemption

The State of Wisconsin encourages attempts to intervene in and prevent youth suicide by providing that the School Board and any District officer, employee, or volunteer who in good faith attempts to prevent suicide by a student is immune from civil liability under state law for his or her acts or omissions in respect to the suicide or attempted suicide.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 49.45(30c)	[licensed treatment professionals]
Section 115.365	[DPI suicide prevention resources and assistance to school; annual notice to professional staff required]
Section 115.366	[grants to support peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs]
Section 115.367	[school-based mental health services grants]
Section 115.368	[assistance to schools for protective behaviors programs]
Section 118.01(2)(d)	[required personal development curriculum]
Section 118.169	[crisis support contact information on student identification cards]
Section 118.295	[liability exemption for suicide intervention]
Section 895.48	[civil liability exemption for certain emergency medical care]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

PI 8.01(2)(e)	[school district standard; guidance and counseling program requirements]
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