

Series 5000 – Students

AR 5141.52

TITLE: Suicide Prevention

Approved by: Francisco Reveles
Francisco Reveles, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Series: **Students**
Version: **1**
Effective Date: **07/08/2020**
Previous Policy
Date: **NEW**
Revised By: **Bobbi Abold**
Policy Number: **AR 5141.52**

At appropriate secondary grades, the suicide prevention instruction shall be designed to help students:

1. Identify and analyze signs of depression and self-destructive behaviors and understand how feelings of depression, loss, isolation, inadequacy, and anxiety can lead to thoughts of suicide
2. Identify alternatives to suicide and develop coping and resiliency skills
3. Learn to listen, be honest, share feelings, and get help when communicating with friends who show signs of suicidal intent
4. Identify trusted adults, school resources, and/or community crisis intervention resources where youth can get help and recognize that there is no stigma associated with seeking mental health, substance abuse, and/or suicide prevention services

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)
(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Intervention

When a suicide attempt or threat is reported, the principal or designee shall:

1. Ensure the student's physical safety by one of the following, as appropriate:
 - a. Securing immediate medical treatment if a suicide attempt has occurred
 - b. Securing law enforcement and/or other emergency assistance if a suicidal act is being actively threatened

- c. Keeping the student under continuous adult supervision until the parent/guardian and/or appropriate support agent or agency can be contacted and has the opportunity to intervene

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

- 2. Designate specific individuals to be promptly contacted, including the school counselor, psychologist, nurse, superintendent, and/or the student's parent/guardian, and, as necessary, local law enforcement or mental health agencies
- 3. Document the incident in writing as soon as feasible

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
- 4. Follow up with the parent/guardian and student in a timely manner to provide referrals to appropriate services as needed
- 5. Provide access to counselors or other appropriate personnel to listen to and support students and staff who are directly or indirectly involved with the incident at the school
- 6. Provide an opportunity for all who respond to the incident to debrief, evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies used, and make recommendations for future actions

In the event that a suicide occurs, or is attempted on campus, the principal or designee shall follow the crisis intervention procedures contained in the school safety plan. After consultation with the Superintendent or designee and the student's parents/guardians about facts that may be divulged in accordance with the laws governing confidentiality of student record information, the principal or designee may provide students, parents/guardians, and staff with information, counseling, and/or referrals to community agencies as needed. School staff may receive assistance from school counselors or other mental health professionals in determining how best to discuss the suicide or attempted suicide with students.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 1112- Media Relations)