

Student**SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth, prevention is a collective effort that requires stakeholder engagement, and school personnel who regularly interact with students are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. In an effort to reduce suicidal behavior, and its impact on students and families, and other trauma associated with suicide, the Superintendent or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing policy and procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, suicide prevention experts, and, in developing policy for grades K-6, the county mental health plan. (Education Code 215)

School and community stakeholders and school mental health professionals with whom the Superintendent or designee shall consult may include district and school administrators, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses, other staff, parents/guardians and caregivers, students, local health agencies, mental health professionals, community organizations, law enforcement, legal counsel, and/or the district's risk manager or insurance carrier. The Superintendent or designee may also collaborate with county and/or city governments in an effort to align district policy with any existing community suicide prevention plans.

Measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, interns, school counselors, and others who interact with students, including, as appropriate, substitute teachers, coaches, expanded day learning staff, crossing guards, tutors, and volunteers
2. Instruction to students in problem-solving coping, and resiliency skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others
3. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students
4. The review of materials and resources used in awareness efforts and communications to ensure they align with best practices for safe and effective messaging about suicide
5. The provision of information to parents/guardians and caregivers regarding risk and protective factors, warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, the district's suicide prevention policy and procedures, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, the importance of communicating with

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appropriate staff if suicide risk is present or suspected, access to suicide prevention training, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis

6. Encouragement for students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions
7. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts
8. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide
9. Establishment of district and/or school-site crisis intervention team(s) to ensure the proper implementation and review of this policy and other district practices related to the emotional and behavioral wellness of students, including, but not limited to, the oversight of mental health and suicide prevention training, collaboration with community mental health organizations, identification of resources and organizations that provide evidence-based treatment, collaboration to build community response, and compliance with Education Code 215

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. (Education Code 215)

The Board shall ensure that measures and strategies for students in grades K-6 are age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. (Education Code 215)

If a referral is made for mental health or related services for a student in grade K-6 who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate and consult with the county mental health plan. (Education Code 215)

District employees shall act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging district employees to diagnose or treat mental illness unless they are specifically licensed and employed to do so. (Education Code 215)

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. The Board may, at its discretion, review the policy more frequently. (Education Code 215)

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The Superintendent or designee shall periodically review district data pertaining to school climate and reports of suicidal ideation, attempts, or death to identify patterns or trends and make recommendations regarding program development.

The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the district's web site, in a prominent location and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 234.6)

Legal Reference:

State

Ed. Code 215
 Ed. Code 215.5
 Ed. Code 216
 Ed. Code 234.6
 Ed. Code 32280-32289.5
 Ed. Code 49060-49079
 Ed. Code 49602
 Ed. Code 49604
 Gov. Code 810-996.6
 Pen. Code 11164-11174.3
 W&I Code 5698
 W&I Code 5850-5886

Management Resources

California Department of
 Education Publication
 California Department of
 Education Publication
 California Department of
 Education Publication
 CALSCHLS Publication
 CALSCHLS Publication
 CALSCHLS Publication
 CDC and Prevention Publication

Court Decision

Each Mind Matters Publication

Heard Alliance Publication

Mental Health Svcs Oversight &
 Accountability Pub

Description

[Suicide prevention policies](#)
[Student identification cards; inclusion of safety hotlines](#)
[Suicide prevention online training programs](#)
[Bullying and harassment prevention information](#)
[School safety plans](#)
[Student records](#)
[Counseling and confidentiality of student information](#)
[Suicide prevention training for school counselors](#)
[Government Claims Act](#)
[Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act](#)
[Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent](#)
[Children's Mental Health Services Act](#)

Description**Model Youth Suicide Prevention Policy**

Health Education Content Standards for California Public
 Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008
 Health Education Framework for California Public Schools,
 Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, May 2019
 California School Staff Survey (CSSS)
 California School Parent Survey (CSPS)
 California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)
 School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective
 Factors Among Youth, 2009
 Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District),
 (2009) 567 F.3d 554
 Making Headlines: Guide to Engaging the Media in Suicide
 Prevention in California, 2012
 K-12 Toolkit for Mental Health Promotion and Suicide
 Prevention, 2017
 Striving for Zero: California's Strategic Plan for Suicide
 Prevention 2020-2025

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Legal Reference:

Management Resources

Nat'l Assoc. of School
Psychologists Publication
Suicide Prevention Resource
Center Publication
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human
Services Publication
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human
Services Publication
Website
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Description

Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis
Teams, 2015
After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools, 2nd Edition, 2018

Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives
for Action, rev. 2012
[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Suicide Prevention Messaging](#)
[National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#)
[Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability
Commission](#)
[HEARD Alliance](#)
[Each Mind Matters: California's Mental Health Movement](#)
[Crisis Text Line](#)
[CalSCHLS](#)
[California Mental Health Services Authority](#)
[Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
[Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)
[National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
[Trevor Project](#)
[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
[American Association of Suicidology](#)
[American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)
[American Psychological Association](#)
[California Department of Education, Mental Health](#)
[California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health
Services](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health](#)
[National Association of School Psychologists](#)
[National Institute for Mental Health](#)
[American School Counselor Association](#)

Policy Adopted: June 22, 2017
Revised: February 8, 2024

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
Westminster, California