



STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

The Board of School Trustees recognizes that that suicide is one of the leading causes of death for Indiana youth. This policy is meant to increase child suicide awareness and prevention. The Board of School Trustees believes there must be a partnership between families, the community, and the School Corporation.

To that end, the School Corporation cooperates with the larger community including suicide prevention services. Information regarding such suicide prevention services located in our community can be found on our corporation website.

Suicide Prevention Programming

Developmentally-appropriate, student-centered education materials will be integrated into the curriculum of all K-12 health classes. The content of these age-appropriate materials will include: 1) the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, 2) how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, 3) help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and community-based suicide prevention services. In addition, schools may provide supplemental small group suicide prevention programming for students.

The school corporation will work in cooperation with community-based suicide prevention services to provide educational and referral information about crisis intervention to at-risk students, their parents, and school employees. Referral information and the availability of suicide prevention services in the local community will be made available by the school corporation through its employee training and student education programs to its employees, its students, and their parents.

Professional Development

Administrators, teachers, and employees will receive annual evidence-based training on risk factors, warning signs, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention. **The training programs used will be research-based that are demonstrated to be an effective or promising program and recommended by the Indiana Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council.**

The training will include additional information regarding groups of students at elevated risk for suicide, including those living with mental and/or substance use disorders, those who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide, those in out-of-home settings, those experiencing homelessness, American Indian students, LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) students, students bereaved by suicide, and those with medical conditions or certain types of disabilities.

Additional training in risk assessment and crisis intervention will be provided to school-employed mental health professionals and school nurses.

Assessment and Referral

When a student is identified by a staff person as potentially suicidal or a student self-refers, the student will be seen by a mental health professional within the same school day to assess risk and facilitate referral. If there is no mental health professional available, a school nurse or administrator will fill this role until a mental health professional can be brought in.

For students at risk:

1. School staff will continuously supervise the student to ensure their safety.
2. The principal and school suicide prevention coordinator will be made aware of the situation as soon as reasonably possible.
3. The mental health professional or principal will contact the student's parent or guardian and will assist the family with an urgent referral. When appropriate, this may include calling emergency services or bringing the student to the local Emergency Department, but in most cases will involve setting up an outpatient mental health or primary care appointment and communicating the reason for referral to the healthcare provider.
4. Staff will ask the student's parent or guardian for written permission to discuss the student's health with outside care, if appropriate.

Crisis Team

The superintendent or designee will appoint a crisis team, which will be a multidisciplinary team consisting of primarily administrative, mental health, and safety professionals, and support staff whose primary focus is to address crisis preparedness, intervention/response and recovery. Members of the crisis team should be professionals who have been specifically trained in crisis preparedness through recovery. The crisis team will take the leadership role in developing crisis plans, ensuring school staff can effectively execute various crisis protocols, and may provide mental health services for effective crisis interventions and recovery supports.

The School Corporation recognizes the relationship between suicide and drug and alcohol use. The plan, training, and any other program authorized under this policy shall increase awareness of this correlation.

Policy Implementation

A corporation suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the Superintendent. The corporation suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy for the school corporation.

Each school principal shall designate a school suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in each school for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation. All staff members shall report students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to the school suicide prevention coordinator.

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Source:

Plainfield Community School Corporation, Plainfield, IN

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