AR-5141.52 (a)

# SUICIDE PREVENTION PROCEDURES

The district is committed to supporting student safety through prevention, early identification, intervention, and postvention practices.

## 1. Staff Awareness and Reporting Responsibilities

All district staff share responsibility for student safety. Any staff member who observes warning signs of suicidal ideation or receives information indicating a student may be at risk shall take the concern seriously and act immediately.

Warning signs may include but are not limited to:

- Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself
- Expressions of hopelessness, worthlessness, or feeling like a burden
- Significant changes in mood or behavior
- Withdrawal from friends, family, or activities
- Giving away personal belongings
- Self-harm behaviors or threats of self-harm

Staff members shall not promise confidentiality when a student expresses suicidal thoughts. The staff member must report the concern immediately to the school counselor, principal, or other designated administrator.

## 2. Immediate Response Procedures

When a student is suspected of being at risk for suicide:

- The student shall not be left alone.
- The staff member shall escort the student to the school counselor, principal, or designated staff member immediately.
- The counselor or trained staff member will conduct an initial risk assessment.

If the situation appears to involve immediate danger, emergency services may be contacted. The safety of the student is the highest priority.

## 3. Parent / Guardian Notification

When a student is identified as being at risk for suicide, parents or guardians will be notified as soon as possible by the counselor, principal, or designee.

The school may:

- Share concerns regarding the student's well-being
- Recommend a mental health evaluation
- Provide information about community resources

# SUICIDE PREVENTION PROCEDURES

Documentation of parent/guardian notification shall be maintained according to district procedures.

**4. Referral to Community Resources**

Students identified as at risk may be referred to appropriate support services. These may include:

- Community mental health providers (SEARHC BHS)
- Medical providers (SEARHC Health Clinic)
- Crisis support services

The school may assist families in connecting with these resources when appropriate.

**5. Student Support at School**

School staff may provide supportive measures to assist students returning to school after a crisis or mental health intervention. These supports may include:

- Counseling support
- Check-ins with designated staff
- Academic accommodations when appropriate
- Coordination with parents or outside providers

**6. Documentation**

Appropriate documentation will be maintained regarding:

- Observed warning signs
- Staff reports of concern
- Actions taken by school personnel
- Parent/guardian notification
- Referrals made for outside services

Student privacy and confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with applicable laws and district policy.

**7. Staff Training**

Consistent with Board Policy BP-5141.52 and Alaska law, the district will provide suicide awareness and prevention training for staff. (Vector Training Options - Youth Suicide: Awareness, Prevention and Postvention or Self-Harm Awareness and Prevention).

AR-5141.52 (c)

# SUICIDE PREVENTION PROCEDURES

Training may include:

- Recognizing warning signs of suicide
- Responding to students in crisis
- Referral procedures within the school
- Available community resources

New staff members will review the district suicide prevention policy and procedures during orientation.

**8. Student Instruction**

Age-appropriate suicide prevention instruction will be incorporated into the curriculum as determined by the district. Instruction may help students:

- Recognize warning signs of suicide
- Develop coping and help-seeking skills
- Support peers in accessing adult help
- Identify available crisis resources

**9. Crisis Resources**

Students and families may be provided with information about crisis services, including:

- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
- Call or text 988
- Available 24 hours a day
- Local behavioral health services may also be shared with families when appropriate.

**10. Postvention**

In the event of a suicide attempt or suicide death affecting the school community, the district may implement response procedures to:

- Provide support to students and staff
- Coordinate counseling services
- Communicate accurate information to the school community
- Reduce the risk of suicide contagion

The district will respond in a manner that prioritizes student safety and sensitivity to the affected family.

Adoption Date: April 20, 2026