

**Suicide Prevention and Response**

The School Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention and shall guide the development and implementation of a coordinated plan to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. The policy shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following provisions:

1. The District Suicide Prevention Plan shall include terms relating to:
  - a) Training school faculty and staff, including contracted personnel and designated school volunteers, in youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention, and resources available within the school and community consistent with the provisions of paragraph II.
  - b) Educating students in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.
  - c) Identifying within the school the person or persons who serve as the point of contact when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide.
  - d) Making referral, crisis intervention, and other related information, both within the school and the community, available for students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers.
  - e) Promoting cooperative efforts between school districts, chartered public schools, and community suicide prevention program personnel.
2. The Superintendent shall designate a District Suicide Prevention Coordinator, who, under the direction of the Superintendent shall be responsible for:
  - a) developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with and coordination efforts between the District and community suicide prevention programs and personnel;
  - b) annual updating of (i) State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention information, and (ii) names and contact information of Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, for inclusion in student handbooks and on the District's website;
  - c) developing - or assisting individual teachers with the development - of age appropriate student educational programming, such that all students receive information in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help;

- d) developing or assisting in the development of the annual staff training required under section 4 of this policy;
  - e) Such other duties as referenced in this Policy or as assigned by the Superintendent.
3. The Building Suicide Prevention Liaison, or, in his/her absence, the building principal, shall be designated as the Building Suicide Prevention Liaison, and shall serve as the in building point-of-contact person when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide. Employees who have reason to believe a student is at risk of suicide, or is exhibiting risk factors for suicide, shall report that information to the Building Liaison, who shall, immediately or as soon as possible, establish and implement a response plan with the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator.
  4. The Superintendent shall assure that beginning with the 2020-21 school year, all school faculty and staff, including contracted personnel, receive at least two hours of training in suicide awareness and prevention. Such training may include, but not be limited to, youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention, and resources available within the school and community.

**Adopted:**

**Reviewed/Amended:** August 13, 2020

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