

## **Students**

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that 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, the Superintendent or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing policy and strategies for suicide prevention and intervention, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders such as administrators, teachers, other staff, parents/guardians, and students; school-employed mental health professionals such as mental health therapists, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses; suicide prevention experts such as local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations; law enforcement; and, in developing policy for grades K-12 the county mental health plan. (Education Code 215).

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

*(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)*

The Board shall ensure that measures and strategies for students in grades K-12 are age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. (Education Code 215)

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, school counselors, and other district employees who interact with students, as described in the accompanying administrative regulation

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*

2. Individual or group instruction as appropriate to students in problem-solving and coping 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

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

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

**SUICIDE PREVENTION** (continued)

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*

*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

4. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis
5. 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
6. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts
7. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide

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)

If a referral is made for mental health or related services for a student in grade K-12 who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate and consult with the county mental health plan. (Education Code 215)

*(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)*

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. (Education Code 215)

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)

**SUICIDE PREVENTION (continued)**

Although any personal information that a student discloses to a school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health therapist shall generally not be revealed, released, referenced, or discussed with third parties, the school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, or mental health therapist may report to the principal or student's parents/guardians when there is reasonable cause to believe that disclosure is necessary to avert a clear and present danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the student or others within the school community. In addition, the counselor may disclose information of a personal nature to psychotherapists, other health care providers, or the school nurse for the sole purpose of referring the student for treatment. (Education Code 49602)

*(Evidence Code section 1010)*

*(Evidence Code section 1024)*

*(Tarasoff v. Regents of University of California (1976) 17 Cal.3d 425)*

*(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)*

***Legal Reference:***

*Evidence Code section 1010*

*Evidence Code section 1024*

*Tarasoff v. Regents of University of California (1976) 17 Cal.3d 425.*

***EDUCATION CODE***

*215 Student suicide prevention policies*

*215.5 Suicide prevention hotline contact information on student identification cards*

*216 Suicide prevention online training programs*

*234.6 Posting suicide prevention policy on web site*

*32280-32289.5 Comprehensive safety plan*

*49060-49079 Student records*

*49602 Confidentiality of student information*

*49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors*

***GOVERNMENT CODE***

*810-996.6 Government Claims Act*

***PENAL CODE***

*11164-11174.3 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*

***WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE***

*5698 Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent*

*5850- 5886 Children's Mental Health Services Act*

***COURT DECISIONS***

*Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District),  
(2009) 567 F.3d 554*

**SUICIDE PREVENTION** (continued)

*Management Resources:*

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008*

*Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2019*

**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS**

*School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009*

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**PUBLICATIONS**

*California Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention: Every Californian is Part of the Solution, 2008*

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS**

*Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015*

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS**

*National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012*

*Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012*

**WEB SITES**

*American Association of Suicidology: <http://www.suicidology.org>*

*American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <https://afsp.org>*

*American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org>*

*American School Counselor Association: <https://www.schoolcounselor.org>*

*California Department of Education, Mental Health: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh>*

*California Department of Mental Health, Children and Youth*

*Programs: <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Services>*

*California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health Services:*

*<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx>*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth>*

*National Association of School Psychologists: <https://www.nasponline.org>*

*National Institute for Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>*

*Suicide Prevention Resource Center: <https://www.sprc.org/about-suicide>*

*Suicide Prevention Lifeline: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>*

*Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org>*

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>*

**SUICIDE PREVENTION** (continued)

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**ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Elk Grove, California**