

Davis Joint USD

Board Policy

Suicide Prevention

BP 5141.52

Students

The Governing Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a major leading cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. In order 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. To attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent or designee shall develop preventative measures and strategies and for suicide prevention, intervention procedures, and postvention.

TheIn developing measures and strategies for use by the district, the Superintendent or designee may involveconsult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies and, mental health professionals, and community organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating the district's strategies for suicide prevention and intervention.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

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

Prevention Education

Suicide preventionSuch measures and strategies may shall include, but are not be limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and other district employees who interact with students in the secondary grades

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

efforts2. Instruction 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.

(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 district's comprehensive health education program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development provision of students including, but not limited information to, the development of problem-solving skills, coping skills, and self-esteem. Suicide prevention instruction shall be incorporated into the health education curriculum in the secondary grades. Such instruction shall be aligned with state content standards and shall be designed to help students analyze signs of depression and self-destructive behaviors, including potential suicide, and to identify suicide prevention strategies.~~

~~(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)~~

~~The Superintendent or designee may offer~~ parents/guardians ~~education or information which describes regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide,~~ the severity of the youth suicide problem, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, ~~risk factors and warning signs of suicide,~~ basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.

Staff Development

~~Suicide prevention training for staff shall be designed to help the support staff identify and respond to students at risk of suicide. The training shall be offered under the direction of a district counselor/psychologist and/or in cooperation with one or more community mental health agencies and may include information on:~~

~~1. Research identifying risk factors, such as previous suicide attempt(s), history of depression or mental illness, substance use problems, family history of suicide or violence, feelings of isolation, interpersonal conflicts, a recent severe stressor or loss, family instability, and other factors~~

~~(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)~~

~~2. Warning signs that may indicate suicidal intentions, including changes in students' appearance, personality, or behavior~~

~~3. Research-based instructional strategies for teaching the suicide prevention curriculum and promoting mental and emotional health~~

~~4. School and community resources and services~~

~~(cf. 5141.6—School Health Services)
(cf. 6164.2—Guidance/Counseling Services)~~

~~5. District procedures for intervening when a student attempts, threatens, or discloses the desire to commit suicide~~

~~(cf. 4131—Staff Development)
(cf. 4231—Staff Development)
(cf. 4331—Staff Development)~~

Intervention

~~Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, he/she shall promptly notify the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall then notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible and may refer the student to mental health resources in the school or community.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall follow the established protocols related to risk assessment and follow up guidance as needed. Such protocol shall be implemented by identified and trained staff members.~~

~~(cf. 5141—Health Care and Emergencies)~~

~~Students shall be encouraged to notify a teacher, principal, counselor, or other adult⁵.~~

Encouragement for students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults, including parents/guardians when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions and instruction regarding how to access school, district and community resources

~~7.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall establish crisis⁶. Suicide risk assessment and other crisis intervention procedures to ensure student safety 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 communications in the event that a suicide occurs, 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 an attempt is made on campus substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or at a school-sponsored activity who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth. (Education Code 215)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

215 Student suicide prevention policies

32280-32289 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

5850-5883 Mental Health Services Act

COURT DECISIONS

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

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

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

~~Youth Suicide Prevention Guidelines for California Schools, 2005~~

Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2003

~~CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH PUBLICATIONS~~

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

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide, Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, ~~2004~~rev. 2012

WEB SITES

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

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

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

American School Counselor Association: <http://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~~ Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program:

http://www.dmhdhcs.ca.gov/Services_and_Programs/Children_and_Youthservices/MH/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx

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

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

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

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

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

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