



Suicide Prevention

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

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or designee may involve school health professionals, school counselors, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies and professionals, and community organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating the charter's strategies for suicide prevention and intervention.

Prevention and Instruction

Suicide prevention strategies may include, but not be limited to, efforts to promote a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or designee may offer parents/guardians education or information which describes the severity of the youth suicide problem, the charter's suicide prevention procedure, 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 staff identify and respond to students at risk of suicide. The training shall be offered under the direction of charter staff 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
2. Warning signs that may indicate suicidal intentions, including changes in students' appearance, personality, or behavior
3. Research-based instructional strategies for teaching suicide prevention and promoting mental and emotional health
4. School and community resources and services
5. Charter procedures for intervening when a student attempts, threatens or discloses the desire to commit suicide

Intervention, Postvention and Reentry plan

Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, he/she shall promptly notify the administrator. The administrator 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.

Following a risk assessment for a student, an established designee (administrator, school counselor, school psychologist, teacher) will follow up with the student/family within 24 hours for an update on any interventions or care that was provided to the student.

A mandatory re-entry meeting will be scheduled prior to the student's return to school, and all appropriate considerations for the student's health and safety will be discussed prior to the student's return to school. If the student has an active Individual Educational Plan (IEP), this will be scheduled as an IEP meeting and will include all applicable members of the student's IEP team (unless excused by the parent or adult student).

If a recommendation for mental health interventions (emergency room, 911, call to student's mental health provider) was made by a member of the school team, the school team will follow up on the status/outcome of this. If a parent did not follow through with the recommendation for intervention, this will trigger a mandated reporter's responsibility to file a report with CPS.

Students shall be encouraged to notify a teacher, principal, counselor, or other adult when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or designee shall establish crisis intervention procedures to ensure student safety and appropriate communications in the event that a suicide occurs or an attempt is made on campus or at a school-sponsored activity.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, 2001

WEB SITES

American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.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_and_Programs/Children_and_Youth
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth>
National Institute for Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>

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