SUICIDE PREVENTION

Duties of Teachers and Administrative Staff

A. Any licensed instructional or administrative staff member who has reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of suicide shall promptly report this matter to a qualified professional identified in the paragraph below, while keeping the student safe.

Qualified Professional

A. The following licensed professionals are designated to assess suicide risks in students under this regulation:

    1. school psychologists assigned to schools,

    2. clinical psychologists assigned to schools.

    Additional qualified professionals may include one or more of the following: school counselor, school nurse (RN or LPN), and/or school social worker.

Duties of the Qualified Professional

A. The qualified professional shall promptly meet with the student to determine whether the student is at imminent risk of suicide.

Abuse and Neglect

A. If a student is determined to be at imminent risk of suicide and has indicated that the reason for this risk relates to parental abuse or neglect, the qualified professional shall is not to contact the parent/guardian.

B. Instead, the qualified professional immediately notifies as soon as practicable, the local department of social services of the county or city wherein the child resides or wherein the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred or the state Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline as required by School Board Policy GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting, VA. Code § 63.2- 1509, and the Memorandum of Understanding between CCS and the Department of Social Services.

C. The qualified professional needs to emphasize to the Department of Social Services that immediate action is necessary to protect the student from harm.

Follow-up

A. After a student has been identified or determined to be at imminent risk of suicide, the qualified professional shall make appropriate follow-up contact to ascertain the current status of the student and facilitate any in-school support that may be required.

B. When the student returns to school, the qualified professional shall monitor the student's progress. The professional shall make any necessary contacts with the parent or other persons or agencies working with the student if any concerns are identified.

Required Documentation for Threat Assessment

A. The qualified professional shall document, using the Threat Assessment Form, the threat assessment and plan by recording the:

   (a) time and date of the call to parent/guardian;

   (b) parent/guardian response;

   (c) response plan agreed upon; and

   (d) anticipated follow-up.

B. The qualified professional and other persons working with the student shall document in writing the progress of the plan and any additional concerns.

C. The documentation shall be maintained confidentially and accessible only to school personnel working directly with the student.

Parental Review of Materials

A. Parents have the right to review any audio-visual materials that contain graphic sexual or violent content used in any anti-bullying or suicide prevention program. Prior to the use of any such material, the parent of a child participating in such a program is provided written notice of the parent's right to review the material and the right to excuse the child from participating in the part of such program utilizing such material.

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Legal References: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-272.1, 63.2- 1509
Virginia Board of Education "Suicide Prevention Guidelines," October 1999.

Cross References: JHG Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
EB School Safety and Crisis Management