

Students

BP 5141.52-(a)

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a ~~major~~leading cause of death among youth and ~~should be taken seriously. In order to~~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 preventive measures and strategies ~~and~~for suicide prevention, intervention procedures, and postvention.

~~The~~In developing measures and strategies for use by the district, the Superintendent or designee may ~~involve~~consult 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 and Instruction~~Such measures and strategies 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 in the secondary grades

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

2. 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)

SUICIDE PREVENTION (continued)

~~The district's comprehensive health education program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development of students including, but not limited 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.~~

4. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the youth suicide problem, 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.

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

Intervention

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

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

~~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.~~

~~Whenever schools establish a peer counseling system to provide support for students, peer counselors shall complete the suicide prevention curriculum, including identification of the warning signs of suicidal behavior and referral of a suicidal student to appropriate adults.~~

6. Crisis~~The Superintendent or designee shall establish crisis~~ intervention procedures to ensure student safety for addressing suicide threats or attempts
7. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and appropriate communications~~others cope~~ in the event that a~~aftermath of a student's~~ suicide occurs

SUICIDE PREVENTION (continued)

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 ~~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

~~41533 Professional Development Block Grant, suicide prevention training for teachers~~

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, ~~2001~~ rev. 2012

(Management Resources continued on next page)

SUICIDE PREVENTION (continued)

Management Resources: (continued)

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.dmh.dhcs.ca.gov/Services_and_Programs/Children_and_Youth_services/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>