

STUDENTS

Regulation 2785

Student Welfare

Student Suicide Awareness

Suicide Prevention Education for Students

Students will receive age appropriate lessons through health education or related curricula on the importance of safe and healthy choices. In addition, students will receive lessons on health seeking strategies for self and /or others. Lessons will contain information on health, wellness, emotional, behavioral and social skills development. These lessons may be taught by health, physical education, classroom teachers or student services staff. Students who are in need of intervention will be referred in accordance with the District's referral procedures for screening and recommendation.

Student education may include the following:

1. Information about suicide prevention;
2. Promotion of a climate that encourages peer referral and which emphasizes school connectedness;
3. Recognition of the signs that they or peers are at risk for suicide;
4. Address issues that may lead to suicide including depression, anger, and drug/alcohol issues.

Intervention Prevention

Information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student's parents, guardians, building principal, or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student is at risk.

Any school employee who has identified a student with one or more risk factors or who has an indication that a student may be contemplating suicide, will refer the student for further assessment and intervention.

Any school employee who is made aware of any threat or witnesses any attempt towards self-harm that is written, drawn, spoken or threatened will immediately notify the principal. Any threat in any form shall be treated as real and dealt with immediately. The District's crisis response procedures will be implemented.

If an expressed suicide thought or intervention is made known to any school employee during an afterschool program and the principal is not available the employee will notify local law enforcement or the suicide hotline, if it exists.

Response to Suicide or Suicide Attempt on Campus

The first employee on the scene of a suicide attempt must follow the District's crisis response procedure and will immediately notify the principal. The school will immediately notify the parents and/or guardians of the affected students.

Procedures for Parent Involvement

Parents/guardians of a student identified as being at risk of suicide will be notified by the principal/designee and must be involved in ongoing actions.

If the parent refuses to cooperate or if there is any doubt regarding the student's safety, the employee witnessing the expressed suicide will make a hotline report.

Suicide Awareness and Preventions

The District will establish a crisis response team(s) including administrators, guidance counselors, school nurse, social worker, school resource officer and/or teacher. The crisis teams should also include individuals designated as coordinators and/or investigators on cases involving peer to peer harassment. These individuals will assist in identifying overlapping risk factors including hostile environment on the basis of gender, race, disability, gender orientation and other protected classes.

Staff Development

All District employees will receive information regarding the District's procedures for suicide awareness and prevention. Training will be provided for all employees about the importance of suicide prevention and recognition of suicide risk factors, as well as strategies to strength resilience and school connectedness.

Publication of Policy

The District will notify employees, students and parents of this policy and will post the policy on the District's website.
