

Morgan Hill USD

Board Policy

Suicide Prevention ~~And Mental Health Promotion~~

BP 5141.52

Students

~~The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe, civil and secure~~reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 215, the policy must be developed in consultation with school environment, and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts. It is the District's charge to respond appropriately to a student expressing~~recommended that districts also consult with legal counsel and the district's risk manager or exhibiting signs of suicidal thought or behaviors and to follow up in the aftermath of a suicide or suicide attempt.~~

The Governing Board recognizes 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.

~~In~~order~~an effort~~ to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent or designee shall develop preventive measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention procedures. Postvention procedures are the provision of crisis intervention, support and assistance for those affected by a suicide.

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, suicide prevention experts, local health agencies ~~and, mental health professionals,~~ and community organizations.

~~This policy is applicable to all schools, District and school-related activities and in all areas within the District's jurisdiction.~~

Prevention and Instruction

~~Suicide prevention~~(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

~~Such measures and strategies may~~shall include, but ~~are~~ not ~~be~~ limited to: methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and are characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among district's policy address any training to be provided to teachers of students.

~~The District's instructional and student support program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social~~

1. Staff development ofon suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and other district employees who interact with students including, but not limited to, the development of

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

2. Students referrals to services that could include problem-solving and coping skills, ~~and resilience 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)

Staff Development

~~Suicide prevention training for teachers, school counselors and other district employees who interact with students in the secondary grades shall be designed to help staff identify and respond to students at risk of suicide. The training shall be offered under the direction of district 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, behavior, or evidence of self-harm.~~

3. ~~School and community resources and services for students and families in crisis and ways to access them.~~

4. 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

5. Crisis intervention procedures for intervening when a student addressing suicide threats or attempts, ~~threatens, or discloses the desire to die by suicide.~~

6. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide.

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 substance ~~abuse~~use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care;² and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth. (Education Code 215)

Intervention

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

~~Students shall be encouraged through the education program and in school activities to notify a teacher, principal, school administrator, 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 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 by a member of the student body or staff on campus or at a school-sponsored activity.~~

~~The goals of postvention include supporting the survivors, preventing imitation suicides by identifying other individuals who are risk for self-destructive behavior and connecting them to intervention services.~~

[1]

~~The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. (Education Code 215)~~

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

215 Student suicide prevention policies

215.5 Suicide prevention hotline contact information on student identification cards

216 Suicide prevention online training programs

32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan

49060-49079 Student records

49602 Confidentiality of student information

49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors

~~Policy MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT~~

~~adopted: September 5, 2017 Morgan Hill, California~~ 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 Children's 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

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

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

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

Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 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 Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/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>