Suicide Prevention

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth, prevention is a collective effort that requires stakeholder engagement, and 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 an effort to reduce suicidal behavior, its impact on students and families, and other trauma associated with suicide, the Superintendent or designee shall develop measures, strategies, practices, and supports for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing policy and procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, suicide prevention experts, and, in developing policy for grades K-6, the county mental health plan. (Education Code 215)

School and community stakeholders and school mental health professionals with whom the Superintendent or designee shall consult may include district and school administrators, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses, other staff, parents/guardians and caregivers, students, local health agencies, mental health professionals, community organizations, law enforcement, legal counsel, and/or the district's risk manager or insurance carrier. The Superintendent or designee may also collaborate with county and/or city governments in an effort to align district policy with any existing community suicide prevention plans.

Measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, interns, school counselors, and others who interact with students, including, as appropriate, substitute teachers, coaches, expanded day learning staff, crossing guards, tutors, and volunteers

2. Instruction to students in problem-solving, coping, and resiliency 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

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

4. The review of materials and resources used in awareness efforts and communications to ensure they align with best practices for safe and effective messaging about suicide

5. The provision of information to parents/guardians and caregivers regarding risk and protective factors, warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, the district's suicide prevention policy and procedures, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, the importance of communicating with appropriate staff if suicide risk is present or suspected, access to suicide prevention training, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis

6. 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

7. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts

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

9. Establishment of district and/or school-site crisis intervention team(s) to ensure the proper implementation and review of this policy and other district practices related to the emotional and behavioral wellness of students, including, but not limited to, the oversight of mental health and suicide prevention training, collaboration with community mental health organizations, identification of resources and organizations that provide evidence-based treatment, collaboration to build community response, and compliance with Education Code 215

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

The Board shall ensure that measures and strategies for students in grades K-6 are age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. (Education Code 215)

If a referral is made for mental health or related services for a student in grade K-6 who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate and consult with the county mental health plan. (Education Code 215)

District employees shall act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging district employees to diagnose or treat mental illness unless they are specifically licensed and employed to do so. (Education Code 215)

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. The Board may, at its discretion, review the policy more frequently. (Education Code 215)

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically review district data pertaining to school climate and reports of suicidal ideation, attempts, or death to identify patterns or trends and make recommendations regarding program development.

The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the district's web site, in a prominent location and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 234.6)

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References	Description
Ed. Code 215	Student suicide prevention policies
Ed. Code 215.5	Student identification cards, inclusion of safety hotlines
Ed. Code 216	Suicide prevention online training programs
Ed. Code 234.6	Bullying and harassment prevention information
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5	Comprehensive safety plan
Ed. Code 49060-49079	Student records
Ed. Code 49602	Confidentiality of personal information received during counseling
Ed. Code 49604	Suicide prevention training for school counselors
Gov. Code 810-996.6	California Tort Claims Act
Pen. Code 11164-11174.3	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act
W&I Code 5698	Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent
W&I Code 5850-5886	Children's Mental Health Services Act

Management Resources References	Description
California Department of Education Publication	01-05 Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials, rev.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Publica	
School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009	
Court Decision	A.M. v. Albertsons, LLC, (2009) Cal.App.4th 455
Nat'l Assoc. of School Psychologists Publication	Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Publication	National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action,
AASA The School Superintendents Association - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/MOaF8AO8cslshSlfGc13QQoEQ==	

Cross References	Description
Comprehensive Safety Plan - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/UDkYvtCfkeBswhxtDVAGoQ==	
Comprehensive Safety Plan - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/VWaYem4yu5Qthfa79lj5QQ==	
COVID-19 Mitigation Plan - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/rcfkHYkie6sGiRXf8UMS2Q==	
Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/40PU2xBWBBweZztwJEoAGg==	
Campus Security - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/688EIyh6uSjvsQkmJqmzww==	
3515	Campus Security - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/PioBaFXZ2fslshqk3cY9WIYoQ==
4131	Staff Development - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/3VU3ILWYdUs8orLaRslshttng==
4231	Staff Development - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/2NKfwcNusrdjnY7VMnIe3A==
5125	Student Records - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/JxC2ft15x5plusgZxKXeg0HtA==
5125	Student Records - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/L51V9QG6l2pAYplusLmNZnZoQ==
5131	Conduct - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/BqDvGeMHazmNdw0plussj1Jqg==
5131.2	Bullying - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/e9aCLAAVugE4RIIgfH56ow==
5131.2	Bullying - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/7Quyx2Gbb9fBJ3snLplus8C6A==
5131.6	Alcohol And Other Drugs - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/qrO0yVoZ6z5JdeRRJ7mciA==
5131.6	Alcohol And Other Drugs - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/Cb0nsSffDeyco8RHO2E56w==
5131.8	Mobile Communication Devices - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/6j4F5LvFLQ5MYJCsZAOuyQ==
5137	Positive School Climate - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/aCpslshOJw43mEnLBZ0skuplusgw==
5138	Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/62x3PTslshmboV8JHzahM6N7g==
5141	Health Care And Emergencies - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/3mzaqybOuw12DrVkoqauWQ==
5141	Health Care And Emergencies - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/uG8Yk782CeBCk0ESbfhPyA==
5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/BEjqlcViXgTslshxL0Wlj31IA==
5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/dL7BIMkMbDjiKpluszH2RQqRw==
5141.6	School Health Services - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/cQUBkslshYswCdsMdM34YNBpg==
5141.6	School Health Services - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/xhx7Tjslsh193b3y8yZo7fGag==
5142	Safety - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/K8OqplusguJHRI8xplussLhZge1Q==
5142	Safety - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/MUNMMb0Rh8ZZQ3B4sJ45aw==
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/Z44HB2BJzSnpluskyplusvKvNplustQ==
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/Re4jHhCwMHoQslsh39zkXGhOA==
5145.7	Sexual Harassment - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/0NGKL0vBtB5lLdVF1ljDQw==
5145.7	Sexual Harassment - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/IB9eQpluse1Wl2A1Fplush8wrOzw==