

Suicide Prevention Plan Aurora R-VIII



Aurora R-VIII School District
July 17, 2023

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Crisis Response Team

District Administration 417-678-3373

Dr. Ben Yocom, Superintendent
Mr. David Mais, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Brenda Lakin, Director of Special Education

Aurora High School 417-678-3355

Dr. Karla Shiveley, Principal
Mr. DJ Gutscher, Asst. Principal
Mr. James Hoffman, Athletic Director
Mrs. Dana Manuel, School Counselor
Mrs. Stacey Hopper, School Counselor
Mrs. April Fare, Nurse
Officer Tim Swadley, School Resource Officer
Officer Kaitlin Rundel, School Resource Officer

Aurora Jr. High School 417-678-3630

Mr. Scott Spooner, Principal
Mrs. Marsha Burton-High, School
Counselor
Mrs. Peggy Stone, Nurse

Robinson School 417-678-7436

Mr. Michael Dake, Principal
Ms. Danielle Jones, Asst. Principal
Mr. Curtis Clausen, School Counselor
Mr. Kyle Willis, School Counselor
Mrs. Maicee Gaston, Nurse

Pate Early Childhood Center 417-678-1552

Mrs. Morgan Choate, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Allie, Asst. Principal
Ms. Lisa Schuldies, School
Counselor
Mrs. Stephanie Whitener, Nurse

Transportation 417-678-4005

Mr. Brad Boettler, Transportation Director

Alternative School 417-678-3630

Mr. Brad Boettler, Alternative School
Supervisor
Mrs. Marsha Burton-High, School
Counselor
Mrs. Dana Manuel, School Counselor
Mrs. Stacey Hopper, School Counselor
Mrs. Peggy Stone, Nurse
Officer Tim Swadley, School Resource Officer
Officer Kaitlin Rundel, School Resource Officer

District Suicide Training

Employee:

All district employees will receive training during each school year. Information will be reviewed annually regarding this plan on suicide awareness and prevention.

The following topics will be addressed in the training:

- Current trends in youth mental health and the impact mental health may have on suicidal thoughts;
- Warning signs that indicate a student may be at risk of suicide;
- Communicating with students regarding concerns about safety, asking for help and reporting unsafe situations;
- Review of suicide prevention plan and referral process;
- Suicide contagion; and
- Universal screener for suicidal tendencies/ideation.

In an attempt to promote district-wide safety, any school employee who encounters a student or staff member expressing suicidal thoughts, comments, or actions will immediately refer the student or employee to the building counselor, principal or a member of the crisis intervention team. **Student suicidal behaviors are NOT confidential, and appropriate school personnel MUST be informed when the health, welfare or safety of the individual is at risk.**

If suicidal behavior is made known to any school employee and the counselor, principal or member of the crisis team is not available, the employee will notify the student's parent/guardian, spouse, or significant other, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) or local law enforcement in an emergency. As soon as practical, the employee will notify the building principal and counselor.

Student:

K-6:

- Counseling classroom will incorporate instruction with anti-bullying and self-esteem units.
- Individual education will be provided for students on an as-needed basis.

7-8:

- Suicide awareness education provided during homeroom instruction by the building counselor.
- Counselor promotes suicide awareness during a designated week during the school year. Information regarding the suicide hotline, duty to warn, and awareness of language is shared during this time.

9-12:

- Signs of Suicide© program will be made available to the public.
- Signs of Suicide© curriculum will be made available to students.
- Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program© cards will be made available to students.
- Individual education will be provided to students on an as-needed basis.

The Aurora R-8 Suicide Prevention Plan will be posted on the District and building web pages as well as any counseling web pages for the building.

A Suicide Intervention Model

1. Risk Assessment

Designated reporters are often asked to make critical risk assessments under extraordinary time constraints. It is the policy of the Aurora School District to err on the side of caution when making assessments and treat each situation individually based on the needs of student and/or staff member.

2. Duty to Inform Parents

A member of the crisis response team, the building administrator or his/her designee shall reach out to the parents/guardians of a student identified as being at risk of suicide to consult with them about the risk assessment of their student, to make them aware of community resources, and to discuss how to best support the student's mental well-being and safety.

If the parent refuses to cooperate or if there is any doubt regarding the student's safety, local mental service providers and/or law enforcement may need to be engaged. A report will be made to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline for all suicide threats making sure to provide information regarding the parent's intention of getting assistance.

Contact with a parent concerning risk of suicide will be documented in writing.

3. Hotline Report

A hotline call will be made regarding any student comments regarding the possibility of suicide. This includes either high or low risk situations. For the protection of the student and school personnel, hotline calls will be made and the intention of the parent regarding the seeking of assistance will be given to the hotline worker/intake person.

4. Parental Involvement and Community Resources

A student exhibiting suicidal behavior will be escorted to meet with the school counselor, principal or member of the crisis management team. Parents/guardians will be contacted to discuss risk and assessment, coping skills and a safety plan if necessary. A basic list of local and national resources will be made available to parents/guardians and students. Educational information regarding suicidal warning signs and risk factors will be made available to parents and guardians.

5. Follow Up and Support the Family

School staff should provide ongoing support to the student and their family. The crisis response team, the building administrator or his/her designee will determine appropriate procedures for informing the school community of a death by suicide and the supports that will be offered. Staff and students who need immediate attention following a death by suicide will be provided support and resources as determined necessary.

STAFF EXPECTATIONS IN RESPONSE TO POTENTIALLY SUICIDAL STUDENTS OR STAFF MEMBERS

1. Administration

- The school principal should be made aware of potentially suicidal students or staff members and may be used as support when needed during crisis situations.

2. Teachers

- Respond with empathetic listening and initial information gathering, give no promises of confidentiality.
- Refer the student to the school counselor (either walk the student to the counselor's office or contact an administrator/counselor to intervene). **Under no circumstances will the student be left alone.**
- The teacher is required to make a hotline report if/when they believe a child is at risk of suicide. While making the report, tell the worker/intake person of the plan by the parent to obtain assistance (e.g. if the parent is taking the student to a facility, provide the name of the hospital or office so Children's Division will know help is being provided). The person who made the hotline must make a follow-up call to the parent the next day to ensure he/she took the student. A counselor or administrator may be included to help the teacher with this duty.

3. School Counselor

- Explore the situation.
- Contact the student's parents. Emphasize to parents that any talk of suicide is

considered serious and warrants action.

- Provide a local referral list of resources as needed. If requested, assist in making call for assessment/treatment.
- If student - Contact **Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline**. (1-800-392-3738)
- Document actions taken by school personnel.
- Notify the principal, other administrators, and the student's teachers (on an as-needed basis) about the student's suicidal tendencies.

4. Follow Up

- Try to get a commitment, verbal or written, from the student/staff member to contact you or another adult if feeling suicidal in the future.
- Make appointments with the student to check on his/her status.
- Principal, Counselor, and Nurse exchange information with the student's teachers to monitor how the student is coping as needed.
- Follow up with parents on their progress in contacting referral agencies and update parents on student progress at school.

Suicide Threat Reminders

- **Make sure the student is not left alone after initial comments are made, is under careful watch in a secure place, and does not have any means available to attempt suicide.**
- **Do not allow the student to leave campus alone. Aurora R-8 schools will require a parent, guardian, or parent's designee to drive the student when leaving school property.**
- **Notify parents or guardians immediately.**
- **A trusted teacher or adult will remain with the student until the parent, guardian, or parent's designee arrives.**
- **Provide responsive services to other students as needed.**

When notified of the student's return, formulate a re-entry plan with the student, parents, and appropriate staff to address the needs of the student returning to school following an absence for hospitalization or treatment. If the student receives outside counseling, encourage parents to sign a release of information form allowing you and the outside agency to share information to provide the best environment of support for the student after he/she returns to school. ([Appendix D](#) release of information form).

**IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER ATTEMPTS SUICIDE ON CAMPUS,
THE FOLLOWING STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN:**

1. Call 911 to activate emergency medical assistance/ambulance to take the student/staff member to the hospital.
2. Request the school nurse to administer first aid.
- 3. Remove all others from the area to provide privacy.**
4. Call the student's parents/guardians or staff member's emergency contact.
5. School personnel should stay with the student while awaiting the arrival of the parents or transportation to a medical facility.
6. Call the SRO (school resource officer) to report the suicide attempt and the action taken.
7. A designated person from the school should go to the hospital.
8. If attempt is made by a student: Call the **Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline** to report the situation. (Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 1-800-392-3738).

Counselors will provide responsive services to the student body and provide support to the student upon return to school, as needed.

Suicide Attempt Off Campus

- A representative from the school will make contact with the student and his/her parents if possible to offer support.
- Superintendent or designee will visit the student if he/she is hospitalized depending on the situation, with parent permission.
- Counselors will provide responsive services to the student body and provide support to the student upon return to school, as needed.

The administration will ensure the student has resources upon reentry to school. If the student was treated at a hospital, a medical release should be requested to return to school. If no medical assistance is needed, recommendations from the mental health professional that is seeing the student should be requested.

Considerations in the Event of the Death of a Student or Staff Member

- Inform the school superintendent and building principal of death.
- Superintendent or designee will notify appropriate faculty and staff of the death.
- Superintendent or designee will contact the deceased's family to offer condolences and inquire what the school can do to assist, and inquire about funeral arrangements.
- Building crisis team will determine what information should be shared with students. This team will provide a statement to be read aloud to students in a classroom setting. *Do not announce the death of a student via the intercom system or hold an assembly program to address the death.
- Building crisis team will arrange locations within the building for crisis counseling to occur and notify staff of the locations.
- Building crisis team will schedule an initial all-staff meeting as soon as possible (ideally, before school starts in the morning).
- Superintendent or designee will provide parents/guardians with a statement regarding the death as deemed appropriate.
- Meet with faculty after school to assess faculty needs.
- The superintendent will be the **only** spokesperson to the media.

Appendix A

Warning Signs of Suicide

- A previous suicide attempt
- A threat of suicide
- Feelings of hopelessness and helplessness
- Talk of death, despair, or a preoccupation with thoughts of death
- Anxiety and tension
- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Violent or rebellious behavior
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Giving away valued possessions or making final arrangements
- Abrupt changes in behavior
- Sudden, inexplicable euphoria after a period of depression
- Running away from home
- Change in academic performance
- Boredom
- Inability to concentrate
- Feelings of worthlessness
- Physical complaints
- Recent suicide of someone close or someone with whom they identify
- Changes in eating habits
- Abrupt changes in school attendance

Appendix B

Tips for Parents

- 1. Know the warning signs!**
- 2. Do not be afraid to talk to your child.** Talking to your children about suicide will not put thoughts into their head. In fact, all available evidence indicates that talking to your child lowers the risk of suicide. The message is, “Suicide is not an option, and help is available.”
- 3. Suicide-proof your home.** Make the knives, pills and, above all, the firearms inaccessible.
- 4. Utilize school and community resources.** This can include your school counselor, crisis intervention personnel, suicide prevention groups or hotlines, or private mental health professionals.
- 5. Take immediate action.** If your child indicates he/she is contemplating suicide, or if your gut instinct tells you they might hurt themselves, get help. **Do not leave your child alone.** Even if he/she denies, “meaning it,” stay with him/her. Reassure him/her. Seek professional help. If necessary, drive your child to the hospital’s emergency room to ensure that he/she is in a safe environment until a psychiatric evaluation can be completed.
- 6. Listen to your child’s friends.** They may give hints that they are worried about their friend but be uncomfortable telling you directly. Be open. Ask questions.

Appendix C

Tips for Teachers

- 1. Know the warning signs!**
- 2. Know the school's responsibilities.** Schools have been held liable in the courts for not warning the parents in a timely fashion or adequately supervising the suicidal student.
- 3. Refer student immediately.** Do not “send” a student to the school psychologist or counselor. Escort the child yourself to a member of the school’s crisis team. If a team has not been identified, notify the principal, counselor, nurse or SRO. (In addition, as soon as possible, request that your school organize a crisis team!)
- 4. Join the crisis team.** You have valuable information to contribute so the school crisis team can make an accurate assessment of risk.
- 5. Advocate for the child.** Sometimes administrators may minimize risk factors and warning signs in a particular student. Advocate for the child until you are certain the child is safe.

Appendix D

AURORA R-8 SCHOOLS
201 S. Madison, Aurora, MO 65605
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Phone: (417) 678-7742 Fax: (417) 717-0518

Date of Request:

Student: DOB:

We request the exchange of information between the following parties:

(Person) (Person)

(Agency) (Agency) Aurora R-8 School District

(Address) (Address) 201 S. Madison

(City, State, Zip) (City, State, Zip) Aurora, MO 65605

(Voice) (Voice) 417-678-7742

(Fax) (Fax) 417-717-0518

- Cumulative Permanent School Records
- Psychological Reports
- Complete Health Records
- Special Education Records, including active IEP and current Diagnostic Summary Any
- Information Relevant To The Development Of Educational Programming
-

Information is requested for the following reasons:

- Transfer of student to this/another
- New enrollment/re-enrollment
- Hospitalization
- Contractual Placement
- Development Of Educational
-
- Programming Other

Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse, and/or Psychiatric, and/or HIV/AIDS Records Release

I understand if my medical records contain information in reference to drug and/or alcohol abuse, psychiatric care, sexually transmitted disease, Hepatitis B or C testing, and/or other sensitive information, I agree to its release.

I understand if my medical record contains information in reference to HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) testing and/or treatment, I agree to its release.

Time Limit and Right to Revoke Authorization

Except to the extent that action has already been taken in reliance on this authorization, at any time I can revoke this authorization by submitting a notice in writing to the building principal or director of special education at the address listed above. Unless revoked, this authorization will expire on the following date or event _____ or 1 year from the date of signature, unless otherwise specified.

Re-Disclosure

I understand the information disclosed by this authorization may be subject to re-disclosure by the recipient and no longer be protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The Aurora R-VIII Schools, its employees, and officers are hereby released from any legal responsibility or liability for disclosure of the above information to the extent indicated and authorized herein.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Emancipated Student

I understand that I do not have to sign this authorization and medical institutions cannot condition treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility based on this authorization. I can inspect or copy the protected health/educational information to be used or disclosed. I authorize the Aurora R-VIII Schools to use and disclose the protected health/educational information specified above.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian/Emancipated Student)

Date

Appendix E

Aurora Community Annotated Directory of Referrals

Access Counseling Solutions	417-839-1779	Shirley Ankrom, M.S. LPC, NCC Aurora and Mt. Vernon
Burrell Center Crisis Line	417-761-5555 800-494-7355	Crisis Hotline
Burrell Behavioral Health (Inpatient and Outpatient Counseling)	417-761-5000 www.burrellcenter.com	1300 E. Bradford Parkway Springfield, MO
Center For Life Coaching and Counseling	417-678-9856	1401 S. Elliot Aurora, MO
Child Center A Child Advocacy Center	417-354-8657	6633 Hwy 37 PO Box 66 Monett, MO
Clark Crisis Line	800-801-4405	24 hour/7 day Hotline
Clark Community Mental Health Center	417-476-1000	1701 N. Central Monett, MO
College Skyline Center	417-782-1443 www.colegeskylinecenter.com	1230 N. Duquesne Joplin, MO 64801
Heartland Center for Behavioral Health (Inpatient Placement)	417-866-3293 ext. 1351 www.heartlandcenterforchange.org	1500 W. Ashland Nevada, MO

Lakeland Regional Hospital (Inpatient Placement)	855-268-5506 www.lakelandbehavioralhealth.com	Springfield, MO
Options Outpatient Counseling Center	417-782-7700	1515 W. 10 th Street, Suite E Joplin and Neosho
Ozarks Community Hospital (Outpatient Counseling and Psychiatry)	417-466-4110	108 S. Hickory Mt. Vernon, MO
The Ozarks Counseling Center	417-869-9011 www.ozarkscounselingcenter.org	1550 E. Battlefield Suite A Springfield, MO
Royal Oaks Hospital (Inpatient Placement)	660-647-2182 800-456-2634	307 N. Main St. Windsor, MO