

## Suicide Prevention Policy

Effective July 1, 2017, schools are required to have a board adopted suicide policy. The possibility of suicide and suicidal ideation requires vigilant attention from our school staff. As a result, we are ethically and legally responsible for providing an appropriate and timely response in preventing suicidal ideation, attempts, and deaths. We must work to create a safe and nurturing campus that minimizes suicidal ideation in students.

Recognizing that it is the duty of every staff member to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its students, this policy aims to safeguard students and staff against suicide attempts, deaths and other trauma associated with suicide, including ensuring adequate supports for students, staff, and families affected by suicide attempts and loss. Below are the strategies for suicide intervention, referral process and parental involvement.

### **Intervention and referral**

Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, they shall promptly notify the primary designated suicide prevention liaison. If this primary suicide prevention liaison is unavailable, the staff shall promptly notify the secondary suicide prevention liaison. **Under all circumstances notify your Resource Center Administrator as well. The primary contact is Jeff Fechner and the secondary contact is Erika Delgado.**

If appropriate and in the best interest of the student, the student's parents/guardians/caregivers should be contacted as soon as possible and shall refer the student to mental health resources in the school or community.

If the student is in imminent danger (has access to a gun, is on a rooftop, or in other unsafe conditions), a call shall be made to 911.

Students shall be encouraged to notify a staff member when they are experiencing emotional distress or suicidal ideation, or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's emotional distress, suicidal ideation, or attempt. Within the same school day, please contact the RCA, primary and secondary contact in order to assess risk and facilitate a possible referral. If the primary contact, secondary contact or the RCA is not available please contact the school counselor. Until one of them become available the staff member who identified the student at risk will remain with the student. If you feel the student is at imminent risk of suicide, please do not leave alone and notify the family when appropriate. **A student experiencing suicidal ideation shall not be left unsupervised.**

### **Parental Notification and Involvement**

After a referral is made for a student, the RCA shall verify with the parent/guardian/caregiver that follow-up treatment has been accessed.

If follow-up care for the student is still not provided, the RCA should consider contacting Child Protective Services (CPS) to report neglect of the youth at 858-560-2191.