

LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REVISED

Policy 5141.52

Students

Suicide Prevention

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

~~In developing measures and strategies for use by the district, the Superintendent or designee may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies, law enforcement, mental health professionals, and community organizations.~~ *In developing policy and procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders, school counselors, school psychologists, administrators, school mental health professionals, suicide prevention experts, and other staff, in developing policy for grades K-6, the county mental health plan.*

~~Such measures and strategies shall include, but are not limited to:~~ *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, school counselors, and other district employees who interact with students in secondary grades.~~ *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 and coping 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 regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the youth suicide problem, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis~~
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 youth.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Legal References: ~~EDUCATION CODE~~
 ~~215 Student suicide prevention policies-~~
 ~~32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan~~
 ~~49060-49079 Student records~~
 ~~49602 Confidentiality of student information~~
 ~~49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors~~
 ~~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 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~~

State

~~Ed. Code 215~~
~~Ed. Code 215.5~~
~~Ed. Code 216~~
~~Ed. Code 234.6~~
~~Ed. Code 32280-32289.5~~
~~Ed. Code 49060-49079~~
~~Ed. Code 49602~~
~~Ed. Code 49604~~
~~Gov. Code 810-996.6~~
~~Pen. Code 11164-11174.3~~
~~W&I Code 5698~~
~~W&I Code 5850-5886~~

Management Resources

~~California Department of Education~~
~~Publication~~
~~California Department of Education~~
~~Publication~~
~~California Department of Education~~

Description

~~[Suicide prevention policies](#)~~
~~[Student identification cards; inclusion of safety hotlines](#)~~
~~[Suicide prevention online training programs](#)~~
~~[Bullying and harassment prevention information](#)~~
~~[School safety plans](#)~~
~~[Student records](#)~~
~~[Counseling and confidentiality of student information](#)~~
~~[Suicide prevention training for school counselors](#)~~
~~[Government Claims Act](#)~~
~~[Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act](#)~~
~~[Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent](#)~~
~~[Children's Mental Health Services Act](#)~~

Description

~~[Model Youth Suicide Prevention Policy](#)~~
~~[Health Education Framework for California Public Schools,](#)~~
~~[Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, May 2019](#)~~
~~[Health Education Content Standards for California Public](#)~~

Publication	<u>Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008</u>
CALSCHLS Publication	<u>California School Staff Survey (CSSS)</u>
	<u>California School Parent Survey (CSPS)</u>
CALSCHLS Publication	<u>California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)</u>
CALSCHLS Publication	<u>School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009</u>
CDC and Prevention Publication	<u>Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554</u>
Court Decision	<u>Making Headlines: Guide to Engaging the Media in Suicide Prevention in California, 2012</u>
Each Mind Matters Publication	<u>K-12 Toolkit for Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention, 2017</u>
Heard Alliance Publication	<u>Striving for Zero: California's Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention 2020-2025</u>
Mental Health Svcs Oversight & Accountability Pub	<u>Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015</u>
Nat'l Assoc. of School Psychologists Publication	<u>After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools, 2nd Edition, 2018</u>
Suicide Prevention Resource Center Publication	<u>Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012</u>
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Publication	<u>National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012</u>
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Publication	<u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u>
Website	<u>Suicide Prevention Messaging</u>
Website	<u>National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention</u>
Website	<u>Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission</u>
Website	<u>HEARD Alliance</u>
Website	<u>Each Mind Matters: California's Mental Health Movement</u>
Website	<u>Crisis Text Line</u>
Website	<u>CalSCHLS</u>
Website	<u>California Mental Health Services Authority</u>
Website	<u>Suicide Prevention Lifeline</u>
Website	<u>Suicide Prevention Resource Center</u>
Website	<u>National Child Traumatic Stress Network</u>
Website	<u>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</u>
Website	<u>Trevor Project</u>
Website	<u>American Academy of Pediatrics</u>
Website	<u>American Association of Suicidology</u>
Website	<u>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention</u>
Website	<u>American Psychological Association</u>
Website	<u>California Department of Education, Mental Health</u>
Website	<u>California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health Services</u>
Website	<u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health</u>
Website	<u>National Association of School Psychologists</u>
Website	<u>National Institute for Mental Health</u>
Website	<u>American School Counselor Association</u>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012
National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and
Objectives for Action, rev. 2012

WEB SITES

American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org>

American Association of Suicidology:-

<http://www.suicidology.org>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <http://afsp.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>

Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org>

National Institute for Mental Health:-

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance
Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:-

<http://www.samhsa.gov>

Policy

adopted: 02/16/10

revised: 08/15/17

revised: 06/14/18 (technical revision)