

SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND POST-INTERVENTION

The School Board recognizes that youth suicide is a significant mental health and social concern. The District is committed to providing educational leadership and assistance to the community in dealing with this issue through suicide prevention, intervention and post-intervention program components.

1. Prevention: This component includes providing suicidal prevention programming for students as an integral part of the curriculum and promoting staff awareness of the warning signs of suicide and available resources.
 - a. Student instruction shall help prevent suicides by promoting the positive emotional development of students. Instructional programs will provide students with the skills needed to make sound decisions, knowledge of the conditions that may cause suicide and the signs of suicidal tendencies, knowledge of the relationship between youth suicide and the use of alcohol and controlled substances, and knowledge of the available school and community youth suicide prevention and intervention services, including how to access services in the event of potential or threatened suicide.
 - b. District staff members will be educated about suicide and ways of recognizing and responding to suicidal students. Professional staff member shall be informed annually of the suicide prevention resources available from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as required by state law.
2. Intervention: This component includes dealing with threatened and attempted student suicides in a consistent, supportive and professional manner. The goal is to promote a healthy and supportive environment that responds quickly and compassionately to the student who threatened or attempted suicide, and that minimizes the possible adverse effects on other students, families and the community.
 - a. Intervention procedures shall be developed by administration and shall be included in the District's crisis management section of the School Safety Plan that is available to all District staff members.
 - b. A core team of school personnel shall be established and trained to provide assistance to the student, family, student body and public. The team shall include, but not be limited to, administrators, counselors, psychologists and social workers.
 - c. Guidance services will provide assistance to students with emotional problems or concerns through counseling and/or referral to appropriate community agencies.
3. Post-Intervention: This component includes a uniform plan of response when dealing with a completed student suicide. This addresses issues such as communicating the facts of the incident in a respectful manner, consistent with legal requirements related to privacy and confidentiality. Strategies also include accommodating the grieving process by providing students opportunities to share, express, and work through their feelings in a safe, structured environment. All or part of these post-intervention procedures may be implemented in response to the unexpected death of a student, for causes unrelated to suicide.

The District, school employees, school officers and volunteers, who in good faith attempt to prevent suicide by a student, are immune from civil liability for their acts or omissions in respect to the suicide or attempted suicide as provided by state law.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 115.365(3) Wisconsin Statutes
118.01(2)(d)7
118.295

CROSS REF.: 347-Rule, Procedures for the Maintenance and Confidentiality of Student Records
364, Guidance and Counseling Program
443.4, Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use
School Safety Plans
District Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Post-Intervention Plan

Approved: January 19, 1998
Revised (WASB): February 23, 2015