

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth 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. To attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Executive Director or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, to be adopted by the Governing Board at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all district students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

In developing policies for use by the School for grades 7 to 12, the Executive Director or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders, school health professionals, and suicide prevention experts.

In developing policies for use by the school for kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, the School Principal or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders, the county mental health plan, school mental health professionals and suicide prevention experts. This policy shall be age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. The policy shall also ensure proper coordination and consultation with the county mental health plan if a referral is made for mental health or related services on behalf of a student who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary.

The policy shall specifically address the needs of high-risk groups, including, but not limited to, all of the following: (A) Youth bereaved by suicide. (B) Youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders. (C) Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings, such as foster care. (D) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth.

The policy shall also address any training on suicide awareness and prevention to be provided to teachers of pupils in all of the grades served by the local educational agency. Materials approved by a local educational agency for training shall include how to identify appropriate mental health services, both at the schoolsite and within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services. Materials approved for training may also include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

The policy shall be written to ensure that a school employee acts only within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential or license. Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging a school employee to diagnose or treat mental illness unless the employee is specifically licensed and employed to do so.

The Achieve Charter School Board of Directors shall review its policy on pupil suicide prevention at a minimum of every fifth year and, if necessary, update its policy.

WEB SITES

K–12 Toolkit for Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention <http://www.heardalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/HEARDToolkit2017.pdf>

Trevor Project: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/District-Policy.pdf>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>

Adopted: April 24, 2023

Amended: