

Policy 3320: Suicide Prevention

Status: DRAFT

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This policy addresses appropriate school responses to suicidal or high-risk behaviors by students taking place in the school, on school property, at school-sponsored events where staff are present, on school buses or vehicles, and at bus stops or after any student, staff, or school community death.

PREVENTION

All staff employed by the district shall receive annual professional development on risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention resources about youth suicide prevention, and information about groups of students at elevated risk for suicide.

Educational programs for students provided by school counselors. Students will receive educational programming through Health 8, Health 11, through school services tea, and prevention curriculum.

The District will provide educational programming through Health 8, Health 11, suicide prevention curriculum, and/or from the mental health team at the school. These mental health teams vary by location, but typically consist of: school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, and/or school psychologists.

INTERVENTION

The Suicide Risk Assessment Intervention Process: When a credible threat of suicide is discovered by any District personnel, a member of the mental health student services team or school psychologist will initiate the suicide intervention prevention procedures, which includes:

- eCompleting a suicide risk interview and screener.
- Contacting the legal parent(s)/guardian(s) if/when a suicide screener is administered. completed and resources will be given as appropriate
- Completeing a suicide risk interview screener
- Ensuring that the student is not left unattended throughout the process, or allowed to leave district premises unaccompanied by an adult
- A Self-Care Plan may be considered for use
- Contact parent(s)/guardian(s) if suicide risk interview is completed and resources will be given as appropriate
- Students may continue to meet with a member(s) of the school mental health team for ongoing support as needed.

A credible threat of suicide may include:

- A student has directly or indirectly expressed suicidal thoughts, either verbally, through writings, drawings and/or social media
- A student is making statements about feeling hopeless, helpless or worthless
- A third party indicates credible information regarding suicidal thoughts, actions, etc.

POSTVENTION

The procedures will include but are not limited to:

Development and implementation of a school-specific Mental Health Crisis Plan an aAction pPlan: in advance of any student death. District staff will develop an action plans to guide a school's response following a death by suicide. The action plan will follow national best practices for postvention. Schools will utilize the applicable resources found within their plan to guide intervention and postvention practices.

Dependent upon level of need, the response may include:

- Activating the District Mental Health Crisis Team for support of students and staff in the affected school(s)
- Coordinating with the Employee Assistance Program to provide support for staff
- Assessing student risk factors to determine and/or identify ongoing needs
- Providing immediate support (crisis counseling) for students
- Providing psychoeducational information about grief and loss
- Offering groups to the affected students
- School mental health teams may also continue to meet with known affected students for a period of time after an event

Definition

Suicide Risk Interview Screener: a tool used to measure and gather information in order to provide resources for suicide intervention about an individual's potential for a suicide attempt or completion. These measures provide information regarding intentionality, access to means and motivation. The interview screener questions look specifically at risk factors, protective factors and warning signs, as recommended by the American Mental Health Counselors Association. The Boise School District uses an interview screener assessment tool that is an adaptation of the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS).

Self-Care Plan: a self-care plan is a tool that is designed to meet the needs of each individual and includes providing resources, soothing activities for the individual, identifying people who support the individual and will be allies, possible counseling support, restricts access to means, positive behavior strategies and what to do in a crisis.

Suicide Risk Interview: a tool used to measure and gather information in order to provide resources for suicide intervention about an individual's potential for a suicide attempt or completion. These measures provide information regarding intentionality, access to means and motivation. The interview questions look specifically at risk factors, protective factors and warning signs, as recommended by the American Mental Health Counselors Association.

Adopted: 6/11/18

Reviewed:

Revised:

Effective 7/1/18

Legal Reference:

[IDAPA 08.02.03.160](#) Safe Environment and Discipline

[IC 33-1612](#) Thorough System of Public Schools

[Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale \(C-SSRS\)](#)

[American Mental Health Counselors Association](#)

Handbook Reference: [Student Related District Policies and Procedures for Grades 7 - 12](#)
