

INSTRUCTION

Suicide Prevention

Suicide is a leading cause of death among youth. Suicidal indicators such as substance abuse and violence are complex issues that should be taken seriously. While district staff may recognize potentially suicidal youth and the district can make an initial risk assessment, the district cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Instead, the board directs district staff to refer students who exhibit suicidal behaviors to an appropriate service for further assessment and counseling.

District staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat should take immediate interim steps to support the student and then promptly report this information to the principal or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family and appropriate resource services.

The district will adopt a plan for recognizing, screening, referring and responding to students in emotional or behavioral distress. The plan will be provided annually to all district staff. At a minimum, the plan will:

- Identify training opportunities for staff on recognizing, screening and referral of students in emotional or behavioral distress, including those who exhibit indicators of substance or sexual abuse, violence or suicide;
- Describe how to utilize the expertise of district staff trained in recognition, screening and referral;
- Provide guidelines, based on staff expertise, for responding to suspicions, concerns or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress;
- Address development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to support services, to include development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the district and one such entity;
- Contain procedures for communication with parents and guardians, including notification requirements in accordance with [RCW 28A.320.160](#);
- Describe how staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others; and
- Describe how the district will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence, student suicide, or allegations of sexual abuse of a student;
- Describe how staff should respond when allegations of sexual contact or abuse are made against a staff member, volunteer, or a parent, guardian or family member of the student, including how staff should interact with parents, law enforcement and child protective services; and
- Identify staff training for certificated and classified staff regarding the obligation to report physical abuse or sexual misconduct required under [RCW 28A.400.317](#).

The superintendent or designee will develop and implement the plan and a staff training schedule.

Cross references: [Procedure 2145P](#) Suicide Prevention
[Board Policy 3204](#) Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying of Students
[Board Policy 3213](#) Gender-Inclusive Schools
[Board Policy 3421](#) Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Legal references:	<u>RCW 28A.320.127</u>	Plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including possible sexual abuse
	<u>RCW 28A.320.1271</u>	Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students
	<u>RCW 28A.320.160</u>	Alleged sexual misconduct by school employee—Parental notification—Information on public records act
	<u>RCW 28A.400.317</u>	Physical abuse or sexual misconduct by school employees—Duty to report—Training
	<u>RCW 28A.410.043</u>	School counselor certification
	<u>RCW 28A.410.226</u>	Washington professional educator standards board—Training program on youth suicide screening—Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors—Adoption of standards

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