



Suicide Risk Assessment Steps and Procedure | [2145P, Section B](#)

When school staff becomes aware of concern for self-harm or suicidality:

Step 1: STABILIZE

- Under no circumstances should a suicidal youth be left alone
- Take the student to a non-threatening place away from other students, a place where there is another adult and a telephone close by
- Survey the environment for any dangerous instruments close at hand and remove as necessary

Step 2: ASSESS RISK

- Meet with the student and complete **asQ Screening Tool** | [Fillable](#) | [Handwritten](#) | [Spanish](#)
 - a. If the student screens positive with the asQ, inquire about possible suicide **plan, means, and intent**. *For example:*
 - i. Ask the student: "Do you have a plan to kill yourself?"
 - ii. If yes, ask: "What is your plan?"
 - iii. Then ask: "Do you have access to ... (identified in plan)?"
 - iv. Then ask: "Do you intend to carry out this plan?"
 - b. **Note: Professional judgment can override a negative asQ screen**
- Determine level of risk based on level of risk chart:

Level of Risk	Low	Moderate	High	Imminent
Ideation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plan		✓	✓	✓
Intent			✓	✓
Recent/in-progress attempt				✓

Imminent Risk?
Call 911

Step 3: INTERVENE

After screening the student and determining the risk level based on ideation, plan, intent, and past/current actions, utilize the steps outlined in the following section. Each situation requires a combination of protocol and professional judgement to determine appropriate actions and follow-up.

Following a student screening, complete a [Student Risk of Suicide or Self-Harm Documentation Form](#).

Imminent Risk - they have made a suicide attempt and/or are in progress of an attempt.

- Take the student to a non-threatening place away from other students, a place where there is another adult and a telephone close by
- Have principal or designee call 911 and notify relevant staff of crisis
- Ensure constant supervision until a healthcare professional has arrived
- Have administrator or designee contact student's parent/guardian as soon as possible
- Schedule a [follow-up meeting](#) with the student and family within **24 hours** to check in with them to determine next steps for [re-entry and safety planning](#) for the student

High Risk - they have indicated that they have a plan **AND** indicate that they intend to carry out their plan.

For All Ages

- Take the student to a non-threatening place away from other students, a place where there is another adult and a telephone close by
- Have principal or designee call 911 if necessary
- Have administrator or designee contact student's parent/guardian as soon as possible
- Ensure constant supervision until the parent or a healthcare professional has arrived

If Over 13

- Principal or designee will call the mobile crisis hotline to come and evaluate the student
 - Snohomish County Crisis Line: (800) 584-3578
- Once parent/guardian has arrived, the school counselor will recommend that the student be evaluated immediately by a mental health professional (i.e., call 988, call child's pediatrician, call child's mental health provider, or call local emergency department)

If Under 13

- Parent or guardian will be required to come and pick up the student, If the student's parent/guardian is unable to be reached in a reasonable amount of time, emergency services will be called. Note: ideally, crisis services/911 should only be used as a last resort for behavioral health emergencies (to preserve confidentiality and reduce stigma).
- Once parent/guardian has arrived, the school counselor will recommend that the student be evaluated immediately by a mental health professional (i.e., call 988, call child's pediatrician, call child's mental health provider, or call local emergency department)

For All Ages: Schedule a [follow-up meeting](#) with the student and family within **24 hours** to check in with them to determine next steps for [re-entry and safety planning](#) for the student

Moderate Risk - the student has communicated that they are experiencing suicidal ideation, **AND** has a plan, **but does not** intend to – and/or have the ability to – follow through on it

- Bring the student to a safe confidential place where they can be monitored until their parent/guardian can come or until the student is evaluated by a mobile crisis unit.
- Call parent or guardian to come pick up the student.
- Once parent/guardian has arrived, the school counselor will recommend that the student be evaluated immediately by a mental health professional (i.e., call 988, call child's pediatrician, call child's mental health provider, or call local emergency department)
- **If student is over 13 years of age, the mobile crisis line may be called without parent/guardian permission**
- Schedule a [follow-up meeting](#) with the student and family within **24 hours** to check in with them to determine next steps for [re-entry and safety planning](#) for the student

Low Risk - they have expressed thoughts of dying and are experiencing stressors, **but do not** have a suicide plan and are not exhibiting suicidal behaviors

- School counselor will meet with the student within 48 hours of referral by student or another person.
- Notify the school administrator
- **If the student is under 13**, the school counselor will contact the student's parents regardless of whether or not the student wants them involved.

Step 4: FOLLOW-UP

During [follow-up](#) with parent/guardian, **schedule a re-entry meeting**.

- At a minimum, this should include student, parent/guardian and at least two school/district staff members (e.g., admin, counselor, nurse, psychologist, social worker)
 - It's important to consider inviting staff members who are familiar with the student
- Complete [Authorization for Release Exchange of Information](#) for outside providers as needed
- During re-entry meeting, fill out [re-entry and safety planning](#) forms as appropriate
- If student is not connected to outpatient mental health, provide parent/guardian with a [mental health resource list](#) and offer a free [mental health referral](#) as an option if needed
 - Follow up with the parent/guardian to ensure the student was successfully referred and to offer ongoing support to the student and their family
- Talk with the student to further identify what supports and resources the student might need
- Create [safety plan](#) with student and parent/guardian
- Provide resources to access a mental health assessment and crisis counseling when appropriate or requested (988 and/or local emergency room)

DOCUMENTATION NOTE: All suicide-related documentation will be stored electronically in each school's access-protected "StudentCrisisSupport" folder located within the shared (S:) drive. Click here for a list of [school folder links](#).

Forms & Resources

- **asQ Screening Tool** | [Fillable](#) | [Handwritten](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Student Risk of Suicide or Self Harm Documentation](#)
- **Student Re-Entry Process**
 - [Combined Forms](#)
 - Individual Forms | [Re-Entry Guide](#) | [Initial Support Plan](#) | [Safety Plan](#) | [Supervision Plan](#)
- [Follow-up Meeting Documentation](#)
- [Authorization for Release/Exchange of Information](#)
- [Mental Health Resource List](#)
- **Referral for Help Card** | [Fillable PDF](#) | [Handwritten](#)
- **Student Crisis Support (Secure Documentation Storage)** | [School Folder Links](#)
- **EPS Suicide Resources & Protocols** | [Docushare Folder](#)