

William S. Hart UHSD

Board Policy

Students

Suicide Prevention

BP 5141.52 (a)

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.

Prevention

Suicide prevention training shall be provided to teachers, counselors, and other district employees who interact with students at the secondary level. The training shall be offered under the direction of the Program Manager of the District's counseling services.

Staff development shall include research and information related to the following topics:

1. The higher risk of suicide among certain groups, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth
2. Individual risk factors such as previous suicide attempt(s) or self-harm, history of depression or mental illness, family history of suicide or violence, feelings of isolation, interpersonal conflicts, a recent severe stressor or loss, family instability, impulsivity, and other factors

The District's comprehensive health education program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development of students and shall be aligned with the state content standards and curriculum framework. Suicide prevention instruction shall be incorporated into the health education curriculum at appropriate grades.

Intervention

When a suicide attempt or threat is reported, the principal or designee shall ensure student safety by taking the following actions:

1. Immediately securing medical treatment and/or mental health services as necessary
2. Notifying law enforcement and/or other emergency assistance if a suicidal act is being actively threatened
3. Keeping the student under continuous adult supervision until the parent/guardian and/or appropriate support agent or agency can be contacted and has the opportunity to intervene
4. Removing other students from the immediate area as soon as possible

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

Postvention

In the event that a student dies by suicide, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate with the student's parents/guardians to offer condolences, assistance, and resources. In accordance with the laws governing confidentiality of student record information, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the parents/guardians regarding facts that may be divulged to other students, parents/guardians, and staff.

Legal Reference: see next page

*Legal Reference**EDUCATION CODE**215 Student suicide prevention policies**32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan**49060-49079 Student records**49602 Confidentiality of student information**49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors**GOVERNMENT CODE**810-996.6 Government Claims Act**PENAL CODE**11164-11174.3 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act**WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE**5698 Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent**5850-5883 Mental Health Services Act**COURT DECISIONS**Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554**Management Resources:**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS**Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008**Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2003**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS**School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS**Preventing Suicide, Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS**Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012**National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012**WEB SITES**American Association of Suicidology: <http://www.suicidology.org>**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <http://afsp.org>**American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org>**American School Counselor Association: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org>**California Department of Education, Mental Health: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh>**California Department of Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program:**<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx>**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth>**National Association of School Psychologists: <http://www.nasponline.org>**National Institute for Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>**Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org>**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:**<http://www.samhsa.gov>*

Date

WILLIAM S. HART UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Santa Clarita, California