



Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 - Students
Title	Suicide Prevention
Code	8022
Status	Active
Adopted	March 5, 2020

SUICIDE PREVENTION

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. In an effort to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the CEO or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing measures and strategies for use by Aspire Public Schools, the CEO or designee may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, suicide prevention experts, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

Such measures and strategies shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and other Aspire employees who interact with students.
2. Instruction to students in problem-solving and coping skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others.
3. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.
4. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.
5. Encouragement for students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.
6. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts.
7. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, 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. (Education Code 215)

The policy was 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. (EC Section 215[a])

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. (Education Code 215)

Legal

215 Student suicide prevention policies

215.5 Suicide prevention hotline contact information on student identification cards

216 Suicide prevention online training programs

32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan

49060-49079 Student records

49602 Confidentiality of student information

49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors

810-996.6 Government Claims Act

11164-11174.3 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

5698 Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent

5850-5883 Children's Mental Health Services Act

Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554

Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008

Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2003

School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009

Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012

Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012

American Association of Suicidology

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Psychological Association

American School Counselor Association

California Department of Education, Mental Health

California Department of Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health

National Association of School Psychologists

National Institute for Mental Health

Trevor Project

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration