

BOARD POLICY

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Students

5141.52- BP

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 Superintendent or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention for students in grades middle and high school.

In developing measures and strategies for use by the district, the Superintendent or designee may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community stakeholders.

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

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and school psychologists, who interact with students in the secondary grades on an annual/routine basis.
 - a. Materials approved for training of teachers shall include risk factors and warning signs of suicide prevention, intervention strategies, and referral procedures.
 - b. Materials approved for training of school counselors and school psychologists shall include how to identify appropriate mental health services, both at the school site and within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services.
 - c. Materials approved for training may also include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.
 - d. District employees must act only within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential and/or license. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging a school employee to diagnose or treat mental illness unless the employee is specifically credentialed or licensed and employed to do so.
2. Methods for promoting a positive school climate (i.e. ASB, PBIS, after-school programs) that enhance students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students

3. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the youth suicide problem, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis
4. 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
5. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts
6. 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.

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

Policy Adopted: 9/12/17