



2145 Suicide Prevention

The Seattle School Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and 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 can make an initial risk assessment, the District cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. 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 must take the proper steps to support the student and to report this information to the building principal or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school and District officials, the student's family, and appropriate resource services.

The Board also recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures. The District will adopt and, at the beginning of each school year, provide to all District staff, a plan for recognizing, screening, referring, and responding to students in emotional or behavioral distress. 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;
- This training is not intended to meet the requirements for maintaining certification as called for in RCW 28A.410.226.
- 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 themselves or others;
- Describe how the District will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence or 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, parent, guardian or family member of

the student, including how staff should interact with parents, law enforcement, and child protective services; and

- Describe how the District will provide training to certificated and classified staff on the obligation to report physical abuse or sexual misconduct as required under RCW 28A.400.317.

The Superintendent or their designee is authorized to develop and implement procedures to achieve the Board's goals and objectives.

Superintendent Procedure:

- 2145SP – Suicide Prevention

Policy Cross References:

- 2140 – Advising and School Counseling
- 3207 – Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying of Students
- 3208 – Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 3211 – Gender-Inclusive Schools: Transgender and Gender-Expansive Student Rights and Supports
- 3225 – School-Based Threat Assessment
- 3418 – Response to Student Injury or Illness
- 3421 – Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Prevention
- 4310 – Relations with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, and the County Health Department
- 4311 – School Safety and Security Services Program

Previous Policies:**Legal References:**

- RCW 28A.320.127 Plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including possible sexual abuse.
- RCW 28A.320.1271 Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.
- RCW 28A.400.317 Physical abuse or sexual misconduct by school employees—Duty to report—Training.
- RCW 28A.410.043 School Counselor Certification.
- RCW 28A.410.226 Washington professional educator standards board –Training program on youth suicide screening – Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists and counselors –Adoption of standards.

Management Resources:

- *K-12 School Counseling Manual*
- *WSSDA Policy & Legal News*, July 2016; December 2014; April 2011

Last Board Review:**Revisions:**

- January 14, 2025 (Administrative Update per Policy No. 1310)

- May 20, 2015

Adopted by the Board:

- December 7, 2011