

Meridian CUSD #223 Suicide Prevention Protocol

The purpose of this protocol is to protect the health and well-being of all district students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

If a student is identified by a staff member as potentially suicidal, i.e., verbalizes about suicide, presents overt risk factors such as agitation or intoxication, the act of self-harm occurs, or a student self-refers, the following actions should be taken:

- Staff member, peer, or student notifies school counselor of student's possible intent to self-harm.
 - The school nurse or administrator should be notified in absence of the school counselor.
 - **If none of the above mentioned staff members are available, contact should be immediately made with the student's parent/guardian and, if deemed necessary, Emergency Medical Services (911).**
- School staff will continuously supervise the student to ensure their safety.
- The school counselor
 - Informs student of breaking confidentiality if necessary.
 - Assesses the student for risk of self-harm.
 - Contacts student's parent/guardian.
 - **If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, staff should call 911.**
 - Discusses appropriate options for situation (Mobile Crisis Unit, ER, established mental healthcare provider, etc.).
 - If the student is covered under private insurance, they should be directed to a local Emergency Department or their private therapist for evaluation.
 - If the student is covered under State insurance (Medicaid), the Mobile Crisis Unit can be contacted with parental consent by calling Sinnissippi Centers at 1-800-242-7642 or calling the CARES line at 1-800-345-9049
 - If the student has no insurance, the CARES line should be called at 1-800-345-9049
 - Provides student's parent/guardian with a list of resources.
 - Creates and discusses a safety plan with parent/guardian and student, when appropriate.
 - Releases student to the care of their parent/guardian.
 - Follows up with student upon their return to school.
 - Develops a transition plan back into the academic setting, if necessary.
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 - Contacts student's parent/guardian.
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 - Discusses appropriate options for situation (Mobile Crisis Unit, ER, established mental healthcare provider, etc.).
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 - Develops a plan with parent/guardian and student to ensure student's safety.
 - Releases student to the care of their parent/guardian.
 - Facilitates follow up between school counselor and student upon their return to school.
- Staff member notifies direct supervisor and appropriate personnel as confidentiality laws allow.
- If a student is then serviced by an outside counseling agency, it is recommended that the parent/guardian sign a release of information form to allow the school to communicate with the counseling agency.

*This protocol is subject to change based on individual student need and situation.