Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5700 Student Health and Safety

5710 Student Suicide Prevention

The Board is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment to all students. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among youth. This Policy establishes procedures for timely and appropriately responding to students at risk of suicide.

A. Suicide Prevention Coordinators

The Superintendent or designee will appoint a Suicide Prevention Coordinator for each building in the District. The Suicide Prevention Coordinators are responsible for providing this Policy annually to their building principals and coordinating annual staff training on suicide intervention and prevention and this Policy. The Suicide Prevention Coordinators shall be listed in building handbooks and on the District webpage.

B. Staff Professional Development

The District will annually provide professional development about suicide prevention, consistent with state law and best practices.

C. Initial Response

Employees, volunteers, and contractors must immediately notify the building principal or the Suicide Prevention Coordinators if a student is exhibiting signs of unusual depression, expressing suicidal thoughts, or threatening or attempting suicide or self-harm.

The student will be continuously supervised to ensure the student's safety. District staff will ensure that the student does not have access to potentially dangerous items.

The Suicide Prevention Coordinator(s) or designees will determine whether to refer the student for a suicide risk assessment.

The Suicide Prevention Coordinators or designees will provide the Parent with school and community-based resources on suicide prevention.

D. Parent Notification

The Suicide Prevention Coordinators or designees will promptly contact the student's Parent if a student is exhibiting signs of unusual depression, expressing suicidal thoughts, or threatening or attempting suicide or self-harm. If the Parent is not available or responsive, the Suicide Prevention Coordinators or designees will contact the student's emergency contact(s).

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District personnel who suspect that the student may have a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act will immediately refer the student for an evaluation.

When a student is exhibiting signs of unusual depression, expressing suicidal thoughts, or threatening or attempting suicide or self-harm, the Suicide Prevention Coordinator will discuss with the student's Parent safety at home and will ask if the student has access to a firearm, weapon, medication, or other lethal means. The Suicide Prevention Coordinators or designees will:

- Ask if firearms, weapons, medications, or other lethal means are kept in the home or are otherwise accessible to the student;
- Recommend that Parent secure or store away from the home firearms, weapons, medications, or other lethal means while the student is struggling; and
- Recommend to the Parent that the student is evaluated by a mental health professional.

E. MDHHS Suicide Prevention Materials

The District will post on its website homepage and in a conspicuous location in the school counselor's office MDHHS model information materials about suicide prevention services, suicide, depression, and anxiety.

Legal authority: MCL 380.1171, 380.1893

Date adopted:

Date revised:

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