Crosslake Community Schools District 4059
Online and In-Person School's Policy
Annual Review
Orig. October 2026

Board Approved:

## 537 SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. It applies to the in-person and online schools, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, on school buses, and in online classes and communications. It also covers how the school responds to suicidal or high-risk behavior that takes place outside of school.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Crosslake Community Schools (CCS) recognizes that physical and mental health are part of student success, and that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people. CCS takes a proactive approach that includes prevention, intervention, and postvention. Every statement about suicide is taken seriously.

### III. DEFINITIONS

A. At-risk student: a student who has attempted suicide, intends to die by suicide, or shows a significant change in behavior that suggests declining mental health.

B. DART: the District Action and Response Team named in the Districtwide Crisis Manual. DART is the crisis team for this policy.

C. School mental health professional: a school social worker, school counselor, or school psychologist employed by or contracted with CCS.

D. Risk assessment: an evaluation of a student who may be at risk, done by a school mental health professional or the mobile crisis team.

E. Postvention: the school's response after a death by suicide, designed to support grieving students and staff and to reduce risk to others.

F. Suicide contagion: an increase in suicide risk among others after a suicide or attempt.

### IV. PREVENTION

A. Coordinator. The Student Support Services Manager serves as the district suicide prevention coordinator. Each principal names a point of contact for the principal's school.



B. Reporting. All staff report any student they believe may be at risk to the school's point of contact or a school mental health professional the same day.

C. Staff training. All staff complete training each year on warning signs, risk and protective factors, how to respond, and where to refer, delivered through the district's Infinitec training modules. School mental health professionals and health office staff receive added training in risk assessment and crisis response. Licensed teachers also complete at least one hour of suicide prevention best practices training in each license renewal period.

D. Student instruction. Age-appropriate suicide prevention content is taught within the district's mental health instruction in grades 4-12, including coping skills, warning signs, and how to get help for oneself or a friend, using resources from the Commissioner of Education or other evidence-based instruction. Suicide prevention is not taught in large assemblies.

E. Crisis contact information. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and the regional mobile crisis number are printed in the Student & Family Handbooks for grades 6-12 and on any student identification card CCS issues to a student in those grades.

F. Publication. This policy is posted on the district website and summarized in the student and staff handbooks.

## V. INTERVENTION

A. A student who may be at risk is not left alone and is seen by a school mental health professional the same school day.

B. If no school mental health professional is available, staff call the regional mobile crisis team at 218-828-4357.

C. Staff call 911 immediately when a student is in immediate danger, has a weapon, or has already harmed themselves.

D. The principal or school mental health professional notifies the parent or guardian the same day, unless doing so would put the student at greater risk. In that case, CCS contacts county child protection.

E. Staff talk with the family about safety at home, including safe storage of firearms and medications, and help the family with an urgent referral.

F. For an attempt or threat away from school, including by an online student, staff stay in contact with the student while a second person calls 911 with the student's location.

G. Before or on the day a student returns from a mental health crisis, a school mental health professional meets with the student and family, writes a re-entry plan, and checks in on an agreed schedule.

H. Step-by-step procedures are in the Districtwide Crisis Manual.



## VI. POSTVENTION

A. After the death of a student or staff member, the District Superintendent or designee activates DART and follows the Districtwide Crisis Manual.

B. CCS confirms the facts and follows the family's wishes about what is shared. C. Staff are told first. Students are told in classrooms or small groups, without details of the method.

D. The District Spokesperson handles all media contact.

E. CCS identifies and supports students and staff most affected, and offers counseling through school staff and community partners.

F. CCS avoids on-campus memorials that could raise risk for other students.

## VII. RESOURCES

A. 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988.

B. Crisis Text Line: text MN to 741741.

C. Crisis Line and mobile crisis team (Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties): 218-828-4357.

D. Online students outside this region: 988, or the mobile crisis provider for the student's county.

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. § 120B.21 (Mental Health Education)

Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.35 (Suicide Prevention Information; Identification Cards)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.187, subd. 6 (Mental Illness and Suicide Prevention Training for License Renewal)

***Cross References:***
Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy);
Districtwide Crisis Manual;
Policy 516 (Student Medication and Telehealth);
Student & Family Handbooks;
Staff Handbook