

*Edited*

# NEW TO DISTRICT

7:290

## Students

### Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important Board goals.

#### Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program

The Director or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a suicide and depression awareness and prevention program (Program) that advances the Board's goals of increasing awareness and prevention of depression and suicide. This program must be consistent with the requirements of Ann Marie's Law listed below; each listed requirement, 1-6, corresponds with the list of required policy components in the School Code Section 5/2-3.163(c)(2)-(7). The Program shall include:

1. Protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to students and ~~staff~~
  - a. For students, implementation will incorporate Board policy 6:60, Curriculum Content, which implements 105 ILCS 5.2-3.139 and 105 ILCS 5/27-7 (requiring education for students to develop a sound mind and a healthy body).
  - b. For staff, implementation will incorporate Board policy 5:100, Staff Development, and teacher's institutes under 105 ILCS 5/3-14.8 (requiring coverage of the warning signs of suicidal behavior).
2. Procedures for methods of suicide prevention with the goal of early identification and referral of students possibly at risk of suicide.
  - a. For students in grades 7 through 12, implementation shall incorporate the training required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39 for school guidance counselors, teachers, school social workers, and other school personnel who work with students to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior in adolescents and teens along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including methods of prevention, procedures for early identification, and referral of students at risk of suicide.
  - b. For all students, implementation shall incorporate Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)-recommended guidelines and educational materials for staff training and professional development, along with ISBE-recommended resources for students containing age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide and awareness, if available pursuant to Ann Marie's Law on ISBE's website.
3. Methods of intervention, including procedures that address an emotional or mental health safety plan for use during the school day and at school-sponsored events for a student identified as being at increased risk of suicide. Implementation will incorporate paragraph number 2, above, along with:
  - a. Board policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*, implementing the goals and benchmarks of the Ill. Learning Standards and 405 ILCS 49/15(b) (requiring student social and emotional development in the Cooperative's educational program);
  - b. Board policy 6:270, *Guidance and Counseling Program*, implementing guidance and counseling program(s) for students, and 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a and 22.24b, which allow a qualified guidance specialist or any licensed staff member to provide school counseling services.

**Comment [AKL1]:** A suicide awareness and prevention policy is required by Ann Marie's Law, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c), amended by P.A. 99-443.

This policy is renamed and rewritten to comply with the statutory requirements.

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**Comment [AKL2]:** Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c)(2), amended by P.A. 99-443. It requires the policy to include protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to *staff* and students.

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**Comment [AKL3]:** Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c)(3), amended by P.A. 99-443. This policy adds *with the goal of* and *possibly* to modify the statute's use of "at risk of suicide." *With the goal of* acknowledges that identifying every student at risk of suicide is impossible. *Possibly* is added to inform the public that these identifications are not definitive. School staff members are not licensed medical professionals who are fully trained to make definitive determinations about whether a student is at risk of suicide, and parents/guardians should not take any referral under this requirement as such.

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**Comment [AKL4]:** Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c)(4), amended by P.A. 99-443. For further discussion of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24b, amended by P.A. 99-276, see fn 2 in policy 6:270, *Guidance and Counseling Program*. This policy adds "for use during the school day and at school-sponsored events" to inform the public about the limitations concerning what schools can realistically provide students and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

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Policy Handbook

- c. Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, implementing the Children's Mental Health Act of 2003, 405 ILCS 49/ (requiring protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health issues that impact learning ability); and
  - d. State and/or federal resources that address emotional or mental health safety plans for students who are at a potentially increased risk for suicide, if available on the ISBE's website pursuant to Ann Marie's Law.
4. Methods of responding to a student or staff suicide or suicide attempt. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate building-level Student Support Committee(s) established through Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*.
  5. Reporting procedures. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate Board policy 6:270, *Guidance and Counseling Program*, and Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, in addition to other State and/or federal resources that address reporting procedures.
  6. A process to incorporate ISBE-recommend resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs, including current contact information for such programs in the Cooperative's Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program.

**Comment [AKL5]:** Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c)(5), amended by P.A. 99-443. See 7:250-AP2, *Protocol for Responding to Students with Social, Emotional, or Mental Health Problems* for information about building-level Student Support Committees.  
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**Comment [AKL6]:** Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c)(6), amended by P.A. 99-443.  
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**Comment [AKL7]:** Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c)(6), amended by P.A. 99-443.  
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Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee

The <sup>Executive</sup> Director or designee shall attempt to develop a relationship between the Cooperative and the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee, the Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition Alliance, and/or a community mental health agency. The purpose of the relationship is to discuss how to incorporate the goals and objectives of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan into the Cooperative's Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness Program.

**Comment [AKL8]:** Optional. At the time of publication, the status of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan was unclear in light of Ann Marie's Law. However, the plan may be found at: [www.idph.state.il.us/about/chronic/Suicide\\_Prevention\\_Plan\\_Jan-08.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/chronic/Suicide_Prevention_Plan_Jan-08.pdf).  
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Monitoring

The Board will review and update this policy pursuant to Ann Marie's Law and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

**Comment [AKL9]:** Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c)(6), amended by P.A. 99-443.  
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Information to Staff, Parents/Guardians, and Students

The <sup>Executive</sup> Director shall inform each <sup>Cooperative</sup> school district employee about this policy and ensure its posting on the Cooperative's website. The <sup>Executive</sup> Director or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the Cooperative.

**Comment [AKL10]:** Consult the board attorney for guidance concerning liability in this area. Except for cases of willful and wanton conduct, the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act likely protects districts from liability for failure to properly identify and/or respond to a student's mental health issue that results in suicide. For more information, consult the footnotes located at PRESS online.  
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Implementation

This policy shall be implemented in a manner consistent with State and federal laws, including the Children's Mental Health Act of 2003, 405 ILCS 49/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act, 740 ILCS 110/, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.

The Cooperative, Board, and its staff are protected from liability by the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act. Services provided pursuant to this policy: (1) do not replace the care of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed medical practitioner or professional trained in suicide prevention, assessments and counseling services, (2) are strictly limited to the available resources within the Cooperative, (3) do not extend beyond the school day and/or school-sponsored events, and (4) cannot guarantee or ensure the safety of a student or the student body.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163, 5/14-1.01 et seq., 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02b.  
745 ILCS 10/.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

ADOPTED: