



Memorandum

Date: September 15, 2025

To: Board of Directors of the Pendleton School District 16R

From: Julie Smith, Ed. D., Director of Special Programs

Subject: Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Post Crisis Plan

Background: September is Suicide Awareness Month. We are taking this opportunity to share with the board the procedures, processes and practices the district takes to prevent suicide, respond when a student is in crisis, and respond when there has been a death by suicide.

Information: We have a Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Crisis Response plan which covers the following topics:

- What every staff member should know about suicide
- Prevention
 - Health education
 - Student responsibilities
 - Staff training
 - Prevention Planning
- Intervention
 - Warning Signs
 - Intervention protocols
 - Risk Screening
- Parent/Guardian responsibilities
- Post Crisis Response Plans
- Communication Plans
- Resources for staff, students, and families

The Pendleton School District [Suicide Prevention Plan](#) is posted on the district website.

All staff receive training through our SafeSchools annual training on Youth Suicide: Awareness, Prevention and Postvention. This course provides an overview and information for staff to reduce the likelihood of suicide among students. The course provides information on how to respond when a student shows warning signs of suicidal ideation. In the past, we have offered Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training to our staff as well.



Our K-12 Health Curriculum contains developmentally appropriate lessons on suicide awareness and prevention, which all students receive. Our classrooms also incorporate social emotional learning as part of the daily curriculum.

Our school counselors and administrators receive training through the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Program and Mental Health First Aid. Schools discuss students of concern on a regular basis, including those who may be experiencing mental health challenges, and assign a team member to follow up and support a student who is struggling. We utilize our School Based Health Centers to connect students with mental health counseling. Counselors work closely with community agencies to support a student at school who is experiencing suicidal ideation or who has attempted suicide. Counselors work with the CARE program to connect families to resources and agency support when applicable.

We utilize the IMESD Crisis Flight Team when a crisis occurs to support our staff and students in recovering from a death by suicide and prevent risk of suicide contagion.

As a district, we take suicide prevention seriously. We are doing a great deal of work to support the well-being and mental health of our students at every level of the system. It takes all of us to be aware and respond when a student expresses suicidal ideation. We take every instance seriously and respond according to our plans.

Recommendation: Please help increase community awareness this Suicide Awareness Month.