

**POLICY TITLE: Suicide Prevention**

**Minidoka County Joint School District # 331**

**POLICY NO:**

**D372.50**

**PAGE 1 of 1**

Neither a school district nor a teacher has a duty to warn of the suicidal tendencies of a student absent the teacher's or school district's knowledge of direct evidence of such suicidal tendencies.

The Board directs the Superintendent or his or her designee to draft and implement procedures relating to:

1. Suicide prevention;
2. Suicide intervention; and
3. Suicide postvention.

"Postvention" shall mean counseling or other social care given to students after another student's suicide or attempted suicide.

These procedures may include, but are not limited to, the following measures:

1. Prevention:

- A. Offering and providing help and assistance, including early identification;
- B. Support and/or counseling by school support personnel for low-risk students;
- C. Referral to appropriate sources outside the school for high and moderate-risk students;
- D. Attendance to the rights of the student and his or her family; and
- E. The designation of ~~a District-level [AND/OR]~~ and school level suicide prevention coordinator(s) by the Superintendent to be responsible for planning and coordinating the implementation of procedures addressing suicide. These building level staff are typically building representatives on the Health and Wellness Committee (See Policy #830 Wellness Program).
- F. Encouraging staff to report to the coordinator students they believe may be at elevated risk of suicide.
- G. Education of students on suicide prevention through age-appropriate curriculum.
- H. Small group suicide prevention programming.
- I. Additional training on suicide prevention for all staff for whom such training is deemed necessary.
- J. Offering resources to parents/guardians on suicide prevention.

2. Intervention:

- A. Contacting the parents/guardians of students identified as at imminent risk of suicide.
- B. Contacting emergency services to assist a student who is at imminent risk of suicide.
- C. Providing first aid until emergency personnel arrive, as appropriate.
- D. Moving other students away from the immediate area of any suicide attempt on District property or at a District event.

3. Postvention:

- A. Provide ~~After~~ care support by the school for faculty, staff, and students after a sudden death has occurred.
- B. The development of a plan for responding to a death by suicide that has a significant impact on the school community.
- C. Provide immediate ~~Notification of~~ the building principal and/or suicide prevention coordinator, if applicable.
- D. The ~~convening~~ ~~creation~~ of a crisis team to respond to deaths by suicide ~~that have a significant impact on in the school community~~ or District.
- E. Contacting the State Department of Education to report any student deaths by suicide and to seek postvention assistance and/or resources.
- F. Offering mental health services to students likely to be strongly affected by a recent death.
- G. Appointing a spokesperson to handle inquiries related to issues involving suicide in the District.

District personnel shall attend to the rights of the student and his or her family; and shall follow District policies and procedures before organizing vigils, gatherings, etc. ~~See Policy 9999~~

The District shall comply with all requirements of State law and administrative rules for training by personnel on suicide prevention and awareness.

~~Protecting the health and well-being of students is in line with the duties of the board of trustees and is an ethical imperative for all staff working with youth. The district believes in having guidelines and procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. The district:~~

- ~~1. Realizes that school personnel spend more time with students than any other professionals, often more time than parents.~~
- ~~2. Recognizes that physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's educational outcomes.~~
- ~~3. Further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people.~~
- ~~4. Has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide.~~
- ~~5. Acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which helps to foster positive youth development.~~

~~Toward this end, the board of trustees empowers the superintendent of schools to convene a standing committee on student health and safety which will establish and oversee development and maintenance of guidelines and procedures to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. Within the scope of this committee will also be the establishment of guidelines and procedures involving overall student health and emergency response to student tragedies.~~

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**SECTION 300: STUDENT**

**SECTION 500: STUDENT INDEX**



**LEGAL REFERENCE:** Idaho Code 33-512; IDAPA 08.02.03.160

**ADOPTED:** August 17, 2015

**RATIFIED:**

**AMENDED/REVISED:**

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**SECTION 300: STUDENT**

**SECTION 500: STUDENT INDEX**