

This procedure will assist District staff in preventing suicide in the District.

**District Policy Implementation:**

A district level suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the Superintendent. Secondary school counselors will serve as school level suicide prevention coordinators unless an alternate is provided by the Principal. Elementary Principals, or their designee, shall also serve as school level suicide prevention coordinators. The district suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy for the school district. Any teacher with direct evidence of a student's suicidal tendencies shall report this knowledge to their building level suicide prevention coordinator. If any staff member believes a student is at elevated risk; they are encouraged to report this belief to the district suicide coordinator. District personnel shall at all times attend to the rights of the student and his or her family

**Staff Professional Development:**

All staff/staff who work closely with students will receive professional development on risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention. The professional development will include additional information regarding groups of students at elevated risk for suicide, including those living with mental and/ or substance use disorders, those who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide, those in out-of-home settings, those experiencing homelessness, American Indian/Alaska Native students, LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) students, students bereaved by suicide, and those with medical conditions or certain types of disabilities, suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. Such training shall be provided annually/within the employee's first year of employment. Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention may be provided to school employed mental health professionals and school nurses. The District shall comply with all requirements of State law and administrative rules for training by personnel on suicide prevention and awareness.

**Youth Suicide Prevention Programing:**

Developmentally-appropriate, student-centered education materials on suicide prevention will be integrated into the curriculum of all K-12 health classes. The content of these age-appropriate materials may include: 1) the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, 2) how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, 3) help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help. In addition, schools may provide supplemental small group suicide prevention programming for students.

**Publication and Distribution**

A summary of this policy will be distributed annually and be included in all student and teacher handbooks and on the school website. The District will also make this summary and additional resources available to parents/guardians on suicide prevention.



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

**ADOPTED: October 21, 2019**

**AMENDED/REVISED:**