



**NORTH ALLEGHENY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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| SECTION: | OPERATIONS |
| TITLE: | SUICIDE AWARENESS, PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE |
| ADOPTED: | 6/22/16 |
| REVISED: | |

819 - SUICIDE AWARENESS, PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE

Section 1. Purpose

The Board is committed to the following: maintain a safe school environment; to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its students and school personnel; to promote healthy development; and to safeguard against the threat or attempt of suicide among school-aged youth. This policy supports federal, state, and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention. It establishes methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt and promotes access to suicide awareness and prevention resources.

Therefore, in order to ensure the safety and welfare of students, the District will work to educate school personnel and students on the actions and resources necessary to prevent suicide and promote emotional well-being.

Section 2. Authority

In compliance with state law and regulations and in support of the North Allegheny School District’s suicide prevention measures, this policy shall apply in any situation where a student is expressing suicidal thoughts or intentions of self-harm on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, or on any public vehicle providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity. This policy shall also apply following a student’s suicide threat or attempt that does not occur on school grounds or during a school-sponsored activity, but that is reported to any school personnel. Information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), the program supervisor, building principal, or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or any other person is deemed to be at risk.

Section 3. Definitions

At-Risk for Suicide - any youth with risk factors or warning signs that increase the likelihood of suicidal behavior.

Chief School Administrator - Superintendent of the North Allegheny School

SC 1526
Pol. 103.1, 248, 249, 806

Title 22
Sec 12.12
Pol. 207, 216, 236

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| <p>SC 1526</p> | <p>District.</p> <p>Crisis Response Team - shall include, but may not be limited to, the Superintendent, administrator(s), school counselor(s), the school nurse, social worker, and/or other member(s) of the Student Assistance Program (SAP), as designated, and may include other members as deemed appropriate by the chief school administrator/school entity or his or her designee. Community mental health agency resources may be called for assistance to be a part of the team.</p> <p>Expressed Suicidal Thoughts or Intentions - a verbal or nonverbal communication that an individual intends to harm him/herself with the intention to die, but has not acted on the behavior.</p> <p>Mental Health Service Providers - may include, but not limited to, hospital emergency departments, psychiatric hospitals, community mental health centers, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and primary care providers.</p> <p>Prevention - efforts that seek to reduce the factors that increase the risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors and increase the factors that help strengthen, support, and protect individuals from suicide.</p> <p>Protective Factors - characteristics (biological, psychological, and social) that reduce risk and the likelihood of the individual developing a mental illness.</p> <p>Resilience - an individual's innate ability to persevere in the face of adversity and reduce the risk of unhealthy outcomes.</p> <p>Risk Factors - the personal or environmental characteristics associated with suicide. People affected by one or more of these risk factors have a greater probability of suicidal behavior.</p> <p>School Connectedness - the belief by students that adults and peers in the school care about their learning as well as about them as individuals.</p> <p>School Personnel - include, but may not be limited to, administrators, professional employees, paraprofessionals, support staff, coaches, bus drivers, custodians, and cafeteria workers.</p> <p>Suicide - death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior.</p> <p>Suicidal Act or Suicide Attempt - a potentially self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence that the person probably intended to kill him/herself; a suicidal act may result in death, injuries, or no injuries.</p> <p>Warning Signs - based indicators that someone may be in danger of suicide, either immediately or in the very near future.</p> |
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| | <p>Section 4. <u>Guidelines</u></p> <p>a. The Superintendent or designee shall develop Administrative Procedures for implementation of this policy, including training for students and staff and providing recommended guidelines for responding to a suicide threat.</p> <p>b. The District shall utilize a multi-faceted approach to suicide prevention which integrates school and community-based supports. The methods of prevention utilized by the District include, but are not limited to: early identification and support for students at risk; education for students, staff, and parent(s)/guardian(s); and delegation of responsibility for planning and coordination of suicide prevention efforts.</p> <p>c. The District shall notify District employees, students, and parent(s)/guardian(s) of this policy and shall post the policy on the District’s website.</p> <p>d. Students shall receive age-appropriate lessons in their classrooms through health education or other appropriate curricula on the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs, as well as help-seeking strategies for self or others including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.</p> <p>e. As part of the District’s professional development plan, professional educators in school buildings serving students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) shall participate in four (4) hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training every five (5) years.</p> <p>f. Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention shall be provided to school counselors, District mental health professionals, social workers, school nurses, Student Assistance Coordinators, and school psychologists.</p> <p>g. All District employees, including, but not limited to paraprofessionals, support staff, coaches, bus drivers, custodians, and cafeteria workers, shall receive information regarding risk factors, warning signs, response procedures, referrals, and resources regarding suicide prevention.</p> <p>h. The District may provide parent(s)/guardian(s) with resources including, but not limited to, health promotion and suicide risk, including characteristics and warning signs and information about local behavioral/mental health resources.</p> <p>i. The District shall follow the North Allegheny School District’s K-12 Suicide Intervention Process when the student has been identified as being at increased risk of suicide.</p> <p>j. For students with disabilities who are identified as being at-risk for suicide or who attempt suicide, the appropriate team shall be notified and shall address the student’s needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations, and Board</p> |
| SC 1526 | |
| Pol. 146 | |
| Pol. 100, 333 | |
| Pol. 100, 333 | |
| Pol. 103.1, 113, 113.1 | |

policy.

Section 5. Suicide Awareness and Prevention Services

- a. A listing of resources regarding suicide awareness and prevention shall be attached to the policy.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1526

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.12

2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action

Board Policies – 100, 103.1, 113, 113.1, 146, 207, 216, 236, 248, 249, 333, and

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