

5000 – STUDENTS

SUICIDE PREVENTION

BP 5141.52

The Superintendent or designee (Superintendent) shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention for pupils in Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) schools.

Such measures and strategies may include, but are not limited to:

1. Providing staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and other employees who interact with pupils in the secondary grades and in other SCOE schools, as appropriate.
2. Training staff to encourage pupils to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another pupil's suicidal intentions.
3. Instructing pupils on warning signs of mental health challenges and emotional distress, coping strategies for dealing with stress and trauma, and strategies for seeking help for oneself and others. Age-appropriate pupil instruction may be incorporated into health education or other appropriate curricula.
4. Promoting a positive school climate that enhances pupils' feelings of connectedness with the school.
5. Providing information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, basic steps for talking to youth about suicide, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.
6. Creating crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts.
7. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping pupils, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a pupil's suicide.
8. Providing a list of resources and materials for school employees, parents/guardians, and pupils that will identify mental health services and information about when and how to refer children, youth, and families to those services.

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of pupils who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to:

- pupils who are bereaved by suicide;
- pupils with a history of suicide ideation or attempts;
- pupils with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders;

- pupils who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and
- pupils who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth.

The Superintendent may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, pupils, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations in developing and implementing these measures and strategies.

SCOE employees must act only within the authorization and scope of the employees' credentials or licenses. Nothing in this policy or in the trainings provided pursuant to this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging a SCOE employee to diagnose or treat mental illness unless the employee is specifically licensed and employed to do so.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

215 Pupil suicide prevention policies

32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan

49602 Confidentiality of pupil information

49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors

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