



# Santa Ana Unified School District

BOARD POLICY NO: 5141.52

EFFECTIVE: 02/09/2021

SUBJECT: **Suicide Prevention**

CATEGORY: Students

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S): Educational Services, Support Services

## **SCOPE:**

The Governing Board of Santa Ana Unified School District recognizes that suicide is the leading cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. In order to attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on all students and families, the Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies and procedures for prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing strategies and procedures for use by the district, the Superintendent or designee may involve school health professionals, school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies, mental health professionals, law enforcement, and community organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating the district's strategies and procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

(cf. 1020- Youth Services)

(cf. 1220- Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1400- Relations Between Other Government Agencies and the Schools)

## **POLICY:**

Implementation of prevention strategies and intervention procedures shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Promoting a positive school climate enhancing student's feelings of connectedness with school and is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.  
(cf. 5131- Conduct)  
(cf. 5137- Positive School Climate)  
(cf. 5131.2- Bullying)  
(cf. 5145. 3- Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
2. Instruction to promote the health, mental, emotional, and social development of students including, but not limited to, the development of problem-solving skills, coping skills, and self-esteem, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others.  
(cf. 6142.8- Comprehensive Health Education)
3. Students will be educated and encouraged to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal ideations or intent.
4. Suicide prevention training and education to be provided to all school staff members who interact with students. Training shall be designed to help staff members identify and respond to students at risk of suicide. This includes staff development on risk factors, warnings signs, protective factors, response procedures with emphasis on immediately (same day) referring a student, referrals, and school and community resources regarding suicide prevention and mental health.



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(cf. 4231- Staff Development)

(cf. 4331- Staff Development)

5. Education and information to be provided to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.
6. Crisis intervention procedures to ensure student safety and appropriate communications for addressing suicide threats and attempts or in the event that a suicide occurs.
7. Counseling and other postvention strategies to help students, staff, and families cope with the aftermath of a suicide attempt or a student who has died by suicide.

As appropriate, these strategies and procedures shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, including but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth. (Education Code 215)

## **DESIRED OUTCOME:**

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate a Suicide Prevention Task Force for the district to lead the development of prevention, intervention, and postvention supports. The Suicide Prevention Task Force shall include representatives from all district departments, as well as school administrators, community partners, parents, and students. Further, each school shall identify at least one staff member, preferably an assistant principal or lead school counselor, to serve as liaison to the Suicide Prevention Task Force and coordinate suicide prevention activities, resources, and protocols for their specific school site. The Suicide Prevention Task Force may also serve as an advisory group for mental health services, crisis response planning, threat management, and other areas supporting the social-emotional needs and well-being of students. The Suicide Prevention Task Force shall meet, at minimum, triennially and review this policy.

## **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:**

### **Legal Reference:**

#### **EDUCATION CODE**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 215         | Student suicide prevention policies               |
| 32280-32289 | Comprehensive Safety Plan                         |
| 49060-49079 | Student records                                   |
| 49602       | Confidentiality of student information            |
| 49604       | Suicide prevention training for school counselors |



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**GOVERNMENT CODE**

810-996.6 Government Claims Act

**PENAL CODE**

11164-11174.3 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

**ADOPTION AND REVISION HISTORY:**

(8-17) 02-21

Santa Ana, CA