

# Santa Barbara Unified School District Board Policy

Students

BP 5141.52

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that school personnel who regularly interact with students are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. In an effort to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent shall designate a suicide prevention coordinator who shall be responsible for developing measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing measures and strategies for use by the district, the suicide prevention coordinator may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, suicide prevention experts, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

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

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

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and other district employees who interact with students

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*

2. Instruction to students in problem-solving and coping skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

3. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and positive peer relationships among students

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*

*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

4. The provision of information 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

5. Encouragement for students 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 intentions
6. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts
7. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide
8. Annual publication of this policy on district and school websites.

As appropriate, these measures and strategies 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 and other types of loss; 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)

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. (Education Code 215)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

- 215 *Student suicide prevention policies*
- 215.5 *Suicide prevention hotline contact information on student identification cards*
- 216 *Suicide prevention online training programs*
- 32280-32289 *Comprehensive safety plan*
- 49060-49079 *Student records*
- 49602 *Confidentiality of student information*
- 49604 *Suicide prevention training for school counselors*

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 810-996.6 *Government Claims Act*

PENAL CODE

- 11164-11174.3 *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

- 5698 *Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent*
- 5850-5883 *Children's Mental Health Services Act*

COURT DECISIONS

- Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554*

*Management Resources:*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

*Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008*

*Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2003*

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS

*School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS

*Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015*  
*U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS*  
*National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012*  
*Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012*

WEB SITES

*American Association of Suicidology: <http://www.suicidology.org>*  
*American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <http://afsp.org>*  
*American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org>*  
*American School Counselor Association: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org>*  
*California Department of Education, Mental Health: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh>*  
*California Department of Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program:  
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx>*  
*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth>*  
*National Association of School Psychologists: <http://www.nasponline.org>*  
*National Institute for Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>*  
*Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org>*  
*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>*

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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