

## Suicide Prevention

The West Valley School District Board of Directors recognize that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that suicidal indicators such as substance abuse and violence are complex issues that should be taken seriously. While district staff may recognize potentially suicidal youth and the district can make an initial risk assessment, the district cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Instead, the board directs district staff to refer students who exhibit suicidal behaviors to an appropriate service for further assessment and counseling.

District staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat must take the proper steps to support the student and to report this information to the building principal or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family and appropriate resource services.

- As part of the District's Comprehensive Safe School Plan, the District will develop and implement a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance use, violence, and youth suicide. The District will annually provide the plan to all district staff. At a minimum, the plan will address:
- Identification of training opportunities in recognition, screening, and referral that may be available for staff;
- How to use the expertise of district staff who have been trained in recognition, screening, and referral;
- How staff should respond to suspicions, concerns, or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students;
- Identification and development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental health, substance abuse, and social support services, including development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the district and such an entity in the community or region;
- Protocols and procedures for communication with parents;
- How staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;
- How the district will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence or youth suicide; and
- Training, when age appropriate, for students to learn suicide prevention information.

- Describe how staff should respond when allegations of sexual contact or abuse are made against a staff member, volunteer, parent, guardian or family member of the student, including how staff should interact with parents, law enforcement and child protective services;
- Describe how the district will provide certificated and classified staff training on the obligation to report physical abuse or sexual misconduct required under RCW 28A.400.317.

The Superintendent will develop and implement procedures and a staff training schedule to implement the District’s Comprehensive Safe School Plan.

Cross References:	Policy 2140 Policy 3207	Guidance and Counseling Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
Legal References:	RCW 28A.410.043 RCW 28A.320.127  RCW 28A.410.226  RCW 28A.320.1271	School Counselor Certification Plan for recognition, screening, and response to Emotional or behavioral distress in students Washington professional educator standards board Training program on youth suicide screening - Certificates for nurses, social workers, psychologists and counselors - Adoption of standards Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students
Cross Reference:	Policy 3207 Policy 2140	Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Guidance and Counseling
Management Resources:	<i>Policy News</i> , December 2014 <i>Policy News</i> , April 2011	

Adoption Date: 06.11

Revised Dates: 05.15; 09.16