

CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS

POLICY: 2145 (formerly 3403)

Adopted: March 6, 2015

Revised: February 4, 2016

SUBJECT: **Suicide Prevention**

Approved by:



Nita Kamphuis, Chair Pro Tem, CDHL Board of Trustees

The CDHL Board of Trustees recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and those suicidal indicators such as substance abuse and violence are complex issues that should be taken seriously. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. CDHL/WSD staff will refer a student who exhibits risk factors for suicide or has made a suicide attempt to a mental health professional for risk assessment within the same school day where possible. CDHL/WSD staff will continuously supervise the student until professional help can be obtained.

CDHL/WSD staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat or are aware of a student who is potentially suicidal must take the proper steps to support the student and to report this information to the principal or designee as soon as reasonably possible. The principal or designee will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family and appropriate resource services. The Superintendent or designee, through discussion with the student and the mental health professional will assess whether there is further risk of harm due to parent or guardian notification. If the Superintendent or designee or mental health professional believes, in their professional capacity, that contacting the parent or guardian would endanger the health or well-being of the student, they may delay such contact as appropriate and document reasons for the delay.

The board also recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures. The CDHL will adopt and, at the beginning of each school year, provide to all CDHL/WSD staff a plan for recognizing, screening, referring and responding to students in emotional or behavioral distress. At a minimum, the plan will:

- Identify training opportunities for staff on recognizing, screening and referral of students in emotional or behavioral distress, including those who exhibit indicators of substance abuse, violence or suicide;
- Describe how to utilize the expertise of CDHL/WSD staff trained in recognition, screening and referral;
- Provide guidelines, based on staff expertise, for responding to suspicions, concerns or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress;

- Address development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to support services, to include development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the CDHL and one such entity;
- Contain procedures for communication with parents;
- Describe how staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;
- Describe how the CDHL/WSD will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence or student suicide.
- Integrate developmentally-appropriate, student-centered suicide prevention education materials into the curriculum of health classes.

The executive director will develop and implement the plan and a staff training schedule to achieve the board's goals and objectives.

Cross References: 3211 - Transgender Students
 3207 - Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Legal References: RCW 28A.410.226 Washington professional educator standards board — Training program on youth suicide screening — Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors — Adoption of standards.
 RCW 28A.410.043 School Counselor Certification
 RCW 28A.320.1271 Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.
 RCW 28A.320.127 Plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.
 20 U.S.C. 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 34 C.F.R. §§ 99.31(a)(10 and 99.36 Disclosure of Information in health and safety emergencies.