

STUDENTS

Suicide Prevention

The board recognizes 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 potential suicide ideation in youth and may make an initial risk assessment, the district cannot provide in-depth therapeutic 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 a building administrator or designee. The administrator or designee shall notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family, and appropriate resource services.

The district will adopt procedures for recognizing, screening, referring and responding to students in emotional or behavioral distress. At a minimum, the procedures will address:

1. Training for staff on recognizing, screening and referral of students in emotional or behavioral distress, including those who exhibit indicators of substance or sexual abuse, violence or suicide;
2. Accessing the expertise of district staff trained in recognition, screening and referral;
3. Guidelines, based on staff expertise, for responding to suspicions, concerns or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress;
4. Development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to support services;
5. Communication with parents/guardians, including notification requirements in accordance with [RCW 28A.320.160](#);
6. Response to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;
7. Support to students and staff after an incident of violence, student suicide, or allegations of sexual abuse of a student;
8. Response when allegations of sexual contact or abuse are made against a staff member, volunteer, parent, guardian or family member of the student, including communication with parents, law enforcement, and child protective services;
9. Training for all staff on the obligation to report physical abuse or sexual misconduct required under [RCW 28A.400.317](#).

These procedures shall be provided to all district staff, including substitutes, and shall be available online.

Cross References:	Board Policy 3421	Child Abuse and Neglect
	Board Policy 3207	Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
Legal Reference:	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.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.
Adoption Date:	August 24, 2021	