

APPROVED

CHICKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE January 18, 2016

a. The Jason Flatt Act

THE JASON FLATT ACT
State of Alabama
SB11

Youth Suicide Awareness & Prevention
Enacted May 5, 2016
Model Policy on Alabama's Jason Flatt Act

Introduction

Suicide is the tenth cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For youth between the ages of 10 and 24, the cause of death rankings are 2nd and 3rd in the nation, and these rankings are higher for youth in the same age brackets in the state of Alabama. The *Jason Flatt Act* was passed in order to equip education institutions and their personnel to recognize and act on signs of suicide risk in order to provide prevention, intervention and postvention with students at risk, their families and the communities who may be affected.

The *Jason Flatt Act*, which amends the 16-28B-8 of the Code of Alabama 1975, includes several elements listed below (*in italics*) which should be interpreted as Policy. "To the extent that the legislature shall appropriate funds, or to the extent that any local board may provide funds from other sources, each school system shall implement the following standards and policies for programs in an effort to prevent student suicide":

Section 1. Prevention of Suicide

The *Jason Flatt Act* was passed in order to equip Alabama school districts and their personnel to recognize and act on signs of suicide risk in order to provide prevention, intervention and postvention with students at risk, their families and the communities who may be affected. This act, which amends 16-28B-8 of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, includes prevention of harassment and violence.

Section 2. The *Jason Flatt Act* includes several elements which should be interpreted as Policy. School systems will:

- (1) *Foster individual, family, and group counseling services related to suicide prevention.*
- (2) *Make referral, crisis intervention, and other related information available for students, parents, and school personnel.*
- (3) *Foster training for school personnel who are responsible for counseling and supervising students.*
- (4) *Increase student awareness of the relationship between drug and alcohol use and suicide.*
- (5) *Educate students in recognizing signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts and warning signs of suicide.*
- (6) *Inform students of available community suicide prevention services.*
- (7) *Promote cooperative efforts between school personnel and community suicide prevention program personnel.*
- (8) *Foster school-based or community-based, or both, alternative programs outside of the classroom.*
- (9) *Develop a strategy to assist survivors of attempted suicide, students, and school personnel in coping with the issues relating to attempted suicide, suicide, the death of a student, and healing.*

(10) Engage in any other program or activity which the local board determines is appropriate and prudent in the efforts of the school system to prevent student suicide.

(11) Provide training for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students on the local board policies to prevent harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence.

(12) Develop a process for discussing with students local board policies relating to the prevention of student suicide and to the prevention of harassment, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence.

(13) Provide annual training for all certificated school employees in suicide awareness and prevention. This training may be provided within the framework of existing inservice training programs or as a part of required professional development offered by the local school system.

Section 3. Description of Behavior Expected of Students

Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required to (1) comply with the requirements of the law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation and (2) to comply with the system's prevention strategies related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention support.

Section 4. Responsibility of Reporting

Any person involved in a cause of action or omission resulting from the implementation of this suicide prevention policy or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section, shall be subject to state immunity law.

Section 5. Promulgation of Policy and Related Procedures, Rules and Forms

This policy and any procedures and rules developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes, including publication on the (local board's) Web site.

Current Cell Phone Policy Recommended changes in red

First Offense ~ the device will be held in the Administration office until the end of the school. The student will be required to submit an essay to the teacher on the impact of disruptions related to cell phones going off in the classroom. A parent may pick up the phone at the end of the school day.

new

First Offense ~ the device will be held in the Administration office until the end of the school. A parent may pick up the phone at the end of the school day.

Second Offense ~ the device will remain in the main office until the end of the school day. An Administrator will assign **1 day at the P.A.S.S Academy**, and establish parent contact. Phone may be picked up only by a parent.

new

Second Offense ~ the device will remain in the main office until the end of the school day. An Administrator will assign **1 day Out of School suspension**. Phone may be picked up only by a parent.

Third Offense ~ the device will remain in the main office for 5 school days. The Administrator will issue **3 days at the P.A.S.S Academy**. Phone may be picked up only by a parent.

new

Third Offense ~ the device will remain in the main office until the end of the school day. The Administrator will issue **3 days at the P.A.S.S Academy**. Phone may be picked up only by a parent.

*If offense occurs during testing, the Board of Education will follow State Digital Policy.

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DATE Tommy Massrock
10/18/16

other violation of this policy or federal regulations.

- F. *Follow-up Testing* - Any employee who continues performing safety-sensitive functions for the Board, following a determination that the employee requires assistance in resolving problems associated with alcohol misuse or the use of controlled substances, shall be subject to unannounced follow-up alcohol or controlled substance testing as directed by the Board's substance abuse professional (SAP).

5.18.4 Administration of Program - The Superintendent is authorized to oversee the Board's testing program, to contract with appropriate providers to implement the program, to develop guidelines, rules and regulations, to implement training programs, to develop and distribute educational materials and appropriate notices to covered employees, and to take such further action as may be required by federal law.

[Reference: Omnibus Transportation and Employment Act of 1991]

5.19 Searches (Personnel)

- A. *Board Property* - All school system property, facilities, and grounds may be entered, inspected, and searched for any lawful purpose by Board officials or their designees at any time, without prior notice and to the fullest extent permitted by law. The right to enter, inspect, and search includes and extends to (but is not limited to) Board owned or controlled offices, desks, file cabinets, lockers, storage areas, computers, files, documents, data, and devices however and wherever kept, stored, and maintained.
- B. *Employee Property* - The Board reserves the right to inspect employees' vehicles, purses, files, and other personal property if a supervisor forms a reasonable individualized suspicion that the property contains evidence of a violation of Board policy or contains any material, object, or substance that otherwise creates or presents a risk of harm or injury to the school, the workplace, or persons therein.
- C. *Use of Recovered Items* - Property, material, substances, information, or records that are obtained, discovered, or recovered as a result of a search may be retained and used for any lawful purpose.

5.20 Self-Reporting Arrest or Conviction

Reporting Event:

The Chilton County Board of Education insists upon maintaining a safe and secure

environment for all students and employees. In that regard, all employees shall self-report to the superintendent within three business days any arrest or conviction of a felony, any arrest or conviction related to child abuse or crime of violence whether a felony or misdemeanor, any conviction of any other misdemeanor, and any arrest for illegal use or possession of drugs, driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI), but excluding minor traffic offenses such as speeding, running stop signs, or running red lights.

Failure to follow this policy is considered insubordination and may subject employees violating this policy to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Definitions:

Arrest – the taking of a person into legal custody.

Conviction – the act or process of judicially finding someone guilty of a misdemeanor or felony in a court of law.

Self-Reporting – to notify the Superintendent in writing of a reporting event.