

Lakeland Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in September	Descriptor Term: <h2 style="text-align: center;">Student Suicide Prevention</h2>	Descriptor Code: 6.415	Issued Date: 07/18/16
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 The Board is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all students and understands that
 2 physical, behavioral, and emotional health are integral components of student achievement. Students
 3 are strongly encouraged to report if they, or a friend, are feeling suicidal or in need of help. Students
 4 will be provided information regarding The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1-800-273-8255
 5 (TALK).

6 **PREVENTION¹**

7 All district employees shall attend either the annual in-service training in suicide prevention or
 8 participate in other equivalent training approved by the superintendent. The training shall include, but
 9 not be limited to, identification of risk factors, warning signs, intervention and response procedures,
 10 referrals, and postvention.

11 The superintendent shall identify a district suicide prevention coordinator responsible for planning and
 12 coordinating the implementation of this policy. Each school principal shall designate a school suicide
 13 prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in each school for issues relating to suicide
 14 prevention and policy implementation.

15 **INTERVENTION¹**

16 Any employee who has reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of suicide shall report such
 17 belief to the principal or designee. Belief that a student is at imminent risk of suicide shall include, but
 18 not be limited to, the student verbalizing the desire to commit suicide, evidence of self-harm, or a
 19 student self-refers.

20 Upon notification, the principal or designee shall ensure the student is placed under adult supervision.
 21 Emergency medical services shall be contacted immediately if an in-school suicide attempt occurs. The
 22 principal or designee shall contact the director of schools or designee as soon as practicable.

23 Prior to contacting the student’s parent/guardian, the superintendent or designee shall determine if
 24 there could be further risk of harm resulting from parent/guardian notification. If parent/guardian
 25 notification could result in further risk of harm or endanger the health or well-being of the student, then
 26 local law enforcement and the Department of Children’s Services shall be contacted.²

27 If appropriate, the superintendent or designee shall contact the student’s parent/guardian and provide
 28 the following information:

- 29 1. Inform the parent/guardian that there is reason to believe the student is at imminent risk of
 30 suicide;

- 1 2. Assure the parent/guardian that the student is currently safe or inform the parent/guardian that
- 2 emergency medical services were contacted;
- 3 3. Ask the parent/guardian whether he/she is aware of the student's mental state;
- 4 4. Ask the parent/guardian whether he/she wishes to obtain or has obtained mental health
- 5 counseling for the student;
5. Provide the names of community mental health counseling resources if appropriate.

6 The superintendent or designee will seek parental permission to communicate with outside mental
7 health care providers regarding a student. If the student is under the age of 18 and the parent/guardian
8 refuses to seek appropriate assistance, the director of schools or designee shall contact the Department
9 of Children's Services.²

10 The superintendent or designee shall document the contact with the parent/guardian by recording:

- 11 1. The time and date of the contact;
- 12 2. The individual contacted;
- 13 3. The parent/guardian's response; and
- 14 4. Anticipated follow-up.

15 The superintendent or designee shall ensure the student is under adult supervision until a
16 parent/guardian or other authorized individual accepts responsibility for the student's safety.

17 Prior to a student returning to school, the superintendent or designee and/or principal shall meet with
18 the student's parent/guardian, and student if appropriate. The parent/guardian shall provide
19 documentation from a mental health care provider stating that the student has received care and is no
20 longer a danger to themselves or others. The principal will identify an employee to periodically check
21 in with the student to ensure the student's safety and address any problems with re-entry.

22 **POSTVENTION¹**

23 Immediately following a student suicide death, the Crisis Team shall meet and implement the Crisis
24 Management plan. At a minimum, the Crisis Management plan shall address the following:

- 25 1. Verification of death;
- 26 2. Preparation of postvention response to include support services;
- 27 3. Informing faculty and staff of a student death;
- 28 4. Informing students that a death has occurred; and
- 29 5. Providing information on the resources available to students.

30 The Crisis Team shall work with teachers to identify the students most likely to be impacted by the
31 death in order to provide additional assistance and counseling if needed. Additionally, staff and faculty
32 will immediately review suicide warning signs and reporting requirements. The director of schools or
33 designee shall be responsible for all media inquiries.

Legal References

1. Public Acts of 2016, Chapter No. 623
2. T.C.A. 37-1-403

Cross References

News Releases, News Conferences and Interview 1.503
Crisis Management 3.203
Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-
bullying and Intimidation 6.304
Promoting Student Welfare 6.400
Student Wellness 6.411