



ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY | 8027.1

The District recognizes that Youth Suicide is a national issue that effects families every day. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 4,600 young people between the ages of 10 and 24 take their own life while 157,000 in the same age group attempt to take their own life. The goal of the District is to not only provide a safe and caring learning environment for students but to ensure that assistance is available to any student in need of emotional support. In furthering that goal, the District shall require each school to implement a recognition, reporting and response procedure to prevent and address possible incidents of youth suicide within their student body.

The Board Policy and supporting Administrative Memorandum meet the requirements of Title 14 § 4124 and follow the recommendations of the CDC for Youth Suicide Prevention.

Staff Professional Development

1. As required by Delaware Code, each public school employee shall participate in one 90 minute professional development session each school year on the topic of Youth Suicide Prevention and Response.
2. The training materials shall be evidence based and developed and/or approved by the Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families.
3. As with the mandatory training for Bullying Prevention, Child Abuse Awareness and Gang Awareness, each school shall require employees to complete this training prior to the last day of October each school year.

School Based Suicide Prevention Program

1. Each school shall organize a Committee to ensure the implementation and effective application of the Suicide Prevention Program. This Committee should look at the specific needs of the school community in planning their activities annually as well as during the course of the school year.
2. Activities such as school assemblies or classroom presentation may be appropriate school based initiatives if a concern exists for the needs of their student population.
3. The Committee shall ensure that each staff member is aware of the Anonymous Reporting Program utilized by the District Department of Public Safety as well as the DFS Hotline for notification of concerns for student safety and welfare.
4. The Committee shall also ensure that staff members are aware of the response procedures outlined in the District and School Emergency Plan as noted in the Emergency response Information Portal.
5. Staff members with a concern for a student's well-being shall immediately notify a Building Administrator who will ensure that building level mental health resources are made available to the student for the purpose of evaluating the need for possible further intervention. The schools mental health team will follow up with the parents and/or any outside mental health, crisis team or public safety agency as they deem necessary to ensure the safety of the student.



RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM

6. Students found to be in immediate crisis, either attempting suicide or showing signs that they may immediately attempt suicide shall be referred to the School Resource Officer, District Public Safety or by contacting 911 and the District Office. (Follow procedures outlined in the School Emergency Plan)

Communications Procedures for Staff Members and Medical Professionals Involved in treating students for suicide issues.

1. Members of the school community are required to follow the HIPAA and FERPA Guidelines for communicating with outside medical professionals regarding a student and their medical treatment.
2. Students over 14 years of age who provide consent for any voluntary outpatient treatment may also allow the school official to share information related to the immediate mental health emergency in accordance with 16 DEL § 5003.
3. Parents must sign a Release of Information form in order to allow staff members to communicate directly with medical professionals regarding their child's case.
4. If the parent refuses to sign such a release and/or notifies the school that they do not intend to follow up regarding the schools concerns involving their child's welfare, the school should contact their School Resource Officer as well as the DFS Hotline to provide information regarding their concern for the student's emotional well-being.
5. In accordance with 14 DEL § 4124, "A school employee, school volunteer or student is individually immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting warning signs of suicide to the appropriate person or persons using the procedures specified in the Districts Suicide Prevention Policy, but there shall be no such immunity if the act of reporting constituted gross negligence and/or reckless, willful or intentional malicious conduct."

Questions about the information contained in this administrative memorandum should be directed to the Supervisor of Public Safety and/or the Deputy Superintendent