

**SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that school personnel who regularly interact with students are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. In an effort to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing measures and strategies for use by the district, the Superintendent or designee may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, suicide prevention experts, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

(cf. [1220](#) - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. [1400](#) - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

Such measures and strategies shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school counselors, and other district employees who interact with students

(cf. [4131](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [4231](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [4331](#) - Staff Development)

2. Instruction to students in problem-solving and coping skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others

(cf. [6142.8](#) - Comprehensive Health Education)

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3. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students

(cf. [5131](#) - Conduct)

(cf. [5131.2](#) - Bullying)

(cf. [5137](#) - Positive School Climate)

(cf. [5145.3](#) - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. [5145.7](#) - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. [5145.9](#) - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

4. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis

5. Encouragement for students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions

6. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts

7. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth. (Education Code [215](#))

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. (Education Code [215](#))

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[215](#) Student suicide prevention policies

215.5 Suicide prevention hotline contact information on student identification cards

[216](#) Suicide prevention online training programs

[32280-32289](#) Comprehensive safety plan

[49060-49079](#) Student records

[49602](#) Confidentiality of student information

[49604](#) Suicide prevention training for school counselors

GOVERNMENT CODE

[810-996.6](#) Government Claims Act

PENAL CODE

[11164-11174.3](#) Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

[5698](#) Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent

[5850-5883](#) Children's Mental Health Services Act

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Policy  
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**SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Santa Clarita, California

