

Suicide Prevention

The University Place School District Board of Directors recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth. While district staff may recognize potentially suicidal youth and the district can make an initial risk assessment, the district cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Instead, the board directs district staff to promptly refer students who exhibit suicidal behaviors to a school counselor or administrator for further assessment and parent notification.

District staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat must take the proper steps to support the student and to report this information to the building principal or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials and the student's family. Other appropriate resource services may also be contacted such as the School Resource Officer in an effort to provide support to the student

The board also recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures. The district will adopt a plan for recognizing, screening, referring and responding to students in emotional or behavioral distress and distribute the plan to all district staff on an annual basis. At a minimum, the plan will:

- Identify training opportunities for staff on recognizing, screening and referral of students in emotional or behavioral distress;
- Describe how to utilize the expertise of district staff trained in recognition, screening and referral;
- Provide guidelines for responding to suspicions, concerns or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress;
- Address development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to support services, to include development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the district and one such entity;
- Contain procedures for communication with parents;
- Describe how staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;
- Describe how the district will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence or student suicide.

The superintendent will develop and implement the plan.

Cross References:	3207 - Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying 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.
Legal References:	RCW 28A.410.043 School Counselor Certification 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.
Management Resources:	2014 - December Issue 2011 - April Issue

Adoption Date: 10/28/15
Classification: **Priority**