

CLASSIFICATION: Students**ADOPTED: 05/09/18****SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention****PAGE: 1 of 2**

The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools 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 attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the County Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee(s) shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention pursuant to Education Code 215, as added by AB 2246 (Ch. 642, Statutes of 2016).

In developing measures and strategies for use by the schools or school activities under the jurisdiction of the County Superintendent of Schools, the County Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee(s) may consult with school health professionals, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

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 County Superintendent of Schools employees who interact with students in the secondary grades
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
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
4. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the youth suicide problem, the County Superintendent of Schools' 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

CLASSIFICATION: Students

ADOPTED: 05/09/18

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention

PAGE: 2 of 2

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

The County Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee(s) shall periodically review this policy and related administrative regulation to ensure compliance with governmental regulations. 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.

Administrative Regulations: 5141.3

Legal Reference: Education Code
215, 32280-32289, 49060-49079, 49602, 49604
Government Code
810-996.6
Penal Code
11164-11174.3
Welfare and Institutions Code
5698, 5850-5883
Court Decisions
Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554