

# Weakley County Board of Education



Monitoring:

Descriptor Term:

**Student Suicide Prevention**

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## **STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION/INTERVENTION/POSTVENTION**

Weakley County Schools are committed to protecting the health and well-being of all students and understands that physical, behavioral, and emotional health are integral components of student achievement. Faculty and staff are expected to be proactive in maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment and to immediately report to the building principal any indications that a student may be in danger of harming themselves or others. Students are strongly encouraged to report if they or another student are feeling suicidal or in need of help. A summary of available resources shall be regularly updated and posted for students.

### **PREVENTION**

All district employees shall attend either an annual in-service training in suicide prevention at the building level or participate in other equivalent training approved by the director of schools. This training will be compliant with Tennessee law. The training shall include, but not be limited to, identification of risk factors, warning signs, intervention and response procedures, referrals, and postvention strategies.

The director of schools shall identify a district suicide prevention coordinator responsible for planning, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. Each principal shall designate a school suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation.

### **INTERVENTION**

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

Upon notification, the principal or designee shall ensure the student is placed under continuous adult supervision. The school counselor, social worker or school nurse will contact the state contracted youth crisis service provider.

Emergency medical services shall be contacted immediately if an in-school suicide attempt occurs.

The principal or designee shall contact the director of schools or designee as soon as practicable.

Prior to contacting the student's parent/guardian, the principal or designee, in consultation with the school counselor and/or social worker, shall determine if there could be further risk of harm resulting from parent/guardian notification.

1 If parent/guardian notification could result in further risk of harm or endanger the health or  
2 wellbeing of the student, then local law enforcement and the Department of Children's Services  
3 shall be contacted.

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5 If appropriate, the principal or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian and shall:

- 6 1. Inform the parent/guardian that there is reason to believe the student is at risk of suicide;
- 7 2. Inform the parent/guardian if emergency services were contacted;
- 8 3. Ask the parent/guardian whether he/she wishes to obtain or has obtained mental health  
9 counseling for the student;
- 10 4. Provide the names of community mental health counseling resources if appropriate.

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12 The principal or designee will seek parental permission to communicate with outside mental  
13 health care providers regarding a student.

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15 If the student is under the age of 16 and the parent/guardian refuses to seek appropriate  
16 assistance, the principal or designee shall contact the Department of Children's Services.

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18 The principal or designee shall document the incident, including contact with the  
19 parent/guardian, by recording:

- 20 1. The time, date and circumstances which resulted in the student coming to the attention of  
21 school officials;
- 22 2. A timeline of the specific actions taken by school officials;
- 23 3. The parent/guardian contacted, including attempts;
- 24 4. The parent/guardian's response; and
- 25 5. Time and date of release of student to authorized individual.
- 26 6. Anticipated follow-up and safety plan.

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28 Prior to a student returning to school, the principal and/or designee, the school counselor and the  
29 school social worker if desired, shall meet with the student and his/her parent or guardian in  
30 order to develop a safety plan.

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32 The safety plan shall identify actions the student's caregivers and school personnel will take to  
33 insure the safety of the student.

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35 The principal will identify an employee to periodically meet with the student to monitor his/her  
36 safety and address any problems or concerns with re-entry.

### 37 **POSTVENTION**

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40 Immediately following notification of a student death by suicide, the school and district crisis  
41 team shall meet to develop a building postvention plan.

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43 At a minimum, the postvention plan shall address the following:

- 44 1. Verification of death;
- 45 2. Preparation of school and/or district response, including support services;
- 46 3. Informing faculty and staff of a student death;

- 1 4. Informing students that a death has occurred;
- 2 5. Provide appropriate resource information to students, faculty/staff and parents.
- 3
- 4 The crisis team shall work with teachers to identify the students most likely to be impacted by
- 5 the death in order to provide additional assistance and counseling if needed.
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- 7 Additionally, staff and faculty will immediately review suicide warning signs and reporting
- 8 requirements.
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- 10 The director of schools or designee shall be responsible for all media inquiries.