

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	17-1456
Introduction Date	6/28/17
Enactment Number	17-1072
Enactment Date	6/29/17



OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Memo

To Board of Education

From Marion McWilliams, General Counsel

Board Meeting Date June 28, 2017

Subject Amendment to Board Policy – BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention

Action Requested Approval of updates to the Oakland Unified School District Board Policy BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention

Background Periodically modifications to board policies are recommended to align with changes in law or recommended best practices. The proposed modifications to the board policies reflect the District’s standards.

Discussion In order to ensure that our policies are current, it is important for us to review and update our policies. The proposed changes are based upon the California Association of Schools Board’s recommended model. The modifications have been reviewed and vetted by the General Counsel.

Policy substantially revised to reflect new law (AB 2246) which mandates districts serving grades 7-12 to adopt policy on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention by the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. Policy reflects the mandate to address any related staff development to be provided to teachers in grades 7-12 and to address the needs of specified high-risk student populations. In addition, policy adds practices in prevention, intervention, and postvention, including, but not limited to, student instruction, crisis intervention procedures, follow-up care for a student who threatens or attempts suicide, and the provision of counseling and other postvention strategies to reduce suicide contagion.

The changes to the policy are shown on the attachment. The proposed deletions are indicated with blue strikeouts. The recommended additions are shown in red.

Recommendation Approval of modification to the Oakland Unified School District Board Policy BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention

Fiscal Impact No direct funding implications

Attachments Amendment to Board Policy BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Oakland Unified School District

Board Policy

Students

BP 5141.52

Suicide Prevention

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a major leading cause of death among youth and that ~~all suicide threats must be taken seriously.~~—The Superintendent or designee shall establish ~~procedures to be followed when a suicide attempt, threat or disclosure is reported.~~—The district shall ~~also provide~~ school personnel who regularly interact with students, ~~parents/guardians and staff with education that helps them~~ are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of ~~severe emotional distress and take preventive measures~~ suicide and to help potentially ~~offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. To attempt to reduce~~ suicidal ~~behavior and its impact on~~ students, ~~and families,~~ the Superintendent or designee shall ~~incorporate~~ develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. ~~instruction into the curriculum.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall also offer parent education or information which describes the severity of the youth suicide problem and the district's suicide prevention curriculum.—This information shall be designed to help parents/guardians recognize warning signs of suicide, learn basic steps for helping suicidal youth and identify community resources that can help youth in crisis.~~

~~Suicide prevention training for certificated and classified staff shall be designed to help staff recognize sudden changes in students' appearance, personality or behavior which may indicate suicidal intentions, help students of all ages develop a positive self-image and a realistic attitude towards potential accomplishments, identify helpful community resources, and follow procedures established by the Superintendent or designee for intervening when a student attempts, threatens or discloses the desire to commit suicide.—The training shall be offered under the direction of a trained district counselor/psychologist or in cooperation with one or more community mental health agencies.—~~

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, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(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 in the secondary grades

(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. ~~6164.2 - Guidance Services~~ 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education Code 49602, which requires confidentiality)

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 disclosed to a school counselor by students 12 years of age or older, specifically allows such information to be reported to the principal or to parents/guardians of regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the student when severity of the counselor has reasonable cause to believe that disclosure is necessary to avert a clear and present danger to youth suicide problem, the district's suicide prevention curriculum student's health or safety.

~~Staff shall promptly report suicidal threats or statements to the principal or mental health counselor, who shall promptly report the threats or statements to the student's parents/guardians.—These statements shall otherwise be kept confidential.~~

~~(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)~~

~~The Board endorses the use of peer counselors who can provide an effective support system for students who may be uncomfortable communicating with adults.—Peer counselors shall first complete~~

~~the suicide prevention curriculum and demonstrate that they are able to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior and rapidly refer a suicidal student to appropriate adults.~~ 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)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

215 Student suicide prevention policies

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 Mental Health Services Act

COURT DECISIONS

Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554

Management Resources:

~~CE~~ CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

~~Health Education Content Standards~~ Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, 1987 ~~Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008~~

Health Framework for California Public Schools, 1994 ~~Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2003~~

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS

School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide, Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012

WEB SITES

American Association of Suicidology: <http://www.suicidology.org>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <http://afsp.org>

American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org>

American School Counselor Association: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org>

California Department of Education, Mental Health: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh>

California Department of Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth>

National Association of School Psychologists: <http://www.nasponline.org>

National Institute for Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>

Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>

7/14/04; [6/28/17](#) (if adopted)

Oakland Unified School District

Board Policy

Students

BP 5141.52

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. To attempt 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, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(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 in the secondary grades

(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)

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 youth suicide problem, 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)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

215 Student suicide prevention policies

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 Mental Health Services Act

COURT DECISIONS

Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District), (2009) 567 F.3d 554

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008

Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2003

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS

School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide, Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012

WEB SITES

American Association of Suicidology: <http://www.suicidology.org>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <http://afsp.org>

American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org>

American School Counselor Association: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org>

California Department of Education, Mental Health: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh>

California Department of Health Care Services, Suicide Prevention Program:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth>

National Association of School Psychologists: <http://www.nasponline.org>

National Institute for Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>

Trevor Project: <http://thetrevorproject.org>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>

7/14/04; 6/28/17 (if adopted)