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**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Community Schools, Thriving Students

# Memo

**To** Board of Education

**From** Marion McWilliams, General Counsel

**Board Meeting Date** February 27, 2019

**Subject** Amendment to Board Policy – Students – BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention

**Action Requested and Recommendation** Approval by the Board of Education 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** Policy is updated to reflect new law (AB 2639) which requires boards of districts that serve grades 7-12 to review the district's suicide prevention policy at least every five years and update it as necessary.

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**.

**Fiscal Impact** No direct funding implications

**Attachments** Amendment to Board Policy BP 5141.52 Suicide Prevention

# 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~~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. 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 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)

*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

*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*

*Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 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; 6/28/17A; 2/27/19A (if adopted)

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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)*

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*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

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

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