

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	21-2475
Introduction Date	10/27/21
Enactment Number	21-1738
Enactment Date	10/27/2021 CJH



# Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education

**From** Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent  
Sondra Aguilera, Chief Academic Officer  
Andrea Bustamante, Executive Director Community Schools Student Services  
Joshua R. Daniels, General Counsel

**Meeting Date** October 27, 2021

**Subject** Amendment, Board Policy 5141.52 – Students - Suicide Prevention

**Ask of the Board** Approve amendments to Board Policy 5141.52 – Students - Suicide Prevention

**Background** Oakland Unified School District’s governing board is responsible for ensuring that Oakland Unified Schools and Offices comply with state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. Board Policy 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention Policy reflects district compliance with state and federal requirements.

**Discussion** The amended policy updates the previous policy to ensure OUSD is compliant with new or updated state or federal laws and regulations governing educational programs.

**Fiscal Impact** N/A

**Attachment(s)**

- Proposed Amendments to Board Policy 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention (REDLINE)
- Proposed Amendments to Board Policy 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention (CLEAN)

**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. 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 shall coordinate and consult with the District's behavioral health department, special education department, health services department, county behavioral health department, community mental health organizations, school administrators and counselors, parents/guardians, students, and/or local and national suicide prevention experts.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen and Other 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 and mental health referrals for teachers, administrators, school staff, and other District employees who interact with students shall be made available in person or via online modules. Content to be covered will be defined in AR 5141.52

(cf. 4131 - 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 shall be delivered in a developmentally appropriate language and approach.

(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 positive relationships among students.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)  
(cf. 5131.2 - Investigating Complaints of 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 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. The policy on suicide prevention shall be posted on the OUSD website and accessible to parents/guardians and students in all grades. (Education Code section 234.6(b)(1))
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. School personnel will respond within the scope of their credential or license.
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 section 215)

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. (Education Code section 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

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; 3/4/19A; 2/24/21A; 10/27/21A

**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. 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 shall coordinate and consult with the District's behavioral health department, special education department, health services department, county behavioral health department, community mental health organizations, school administrators and counselors, parents/guardians, students, and/or local and national suicide prevention experts.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen and Other 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 and mental health referrals for teachers, administrators, school staff, and other District employees who interact with students shall be made available in person or via online modules. Content to be covered will be defined in AR 5141.52

(cf. 4131 - 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 shall be delivered in a developmentally appropriate language and approach.

(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 positive relationships among students.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)  
(cf. 5131.2 - Investigating Complaints of 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 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. The policy on suicide prevention shall be posted on the OUSD website and accessible to parents/guardians and students in all grades. (Education Code section 234.6(b)(1))
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. School personnel will respond within the scope of their credential or license.
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 section 215)

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. (Education Code section 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

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; 3/4/19A; 2/24/21A; 10/27/21A