

Suicide Prevention

The Colton Board of Directors recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that suicidal indicators such as substance abuse and violence are complex issues that should be taken seriously. While district staff may recognize potentially suicidal youth and the District can make an initial risk assessment, the District cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Instead, the Board directs staff to refer students who exhibit suicidal behaviors to an appropriate service for further assessment and counseling.

District staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat must take the proper steps to support the student and to report this information to the building principal or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family and appropriate resource services.

The Board also recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures. The district will adopt and, at the beginning of each school year, provide to all district staff, including substitute and regular bus drivers, a plan for recognizing, screening, referring and responding to students in emotional or behavioral distress. At a minimum, the plan will:

- Identify training opportunities for staff on recognizing, screening and referral of students in emotional or behavioral distress, including those who exhibit indicators of substance abuse, violence or suicide;
- Describe how to utilize the expertise of district staff trained in recognition, screening and referral;
- Provide guidelines, based on staff expertise, for responding to suspicions, concerns or warning signs of emotional or behavioral distress;
- Address development of partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referral of students to support services, to include development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the district and such entity;
- Contain procedures for communication with parents;
- Describe how staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;
- Describe how the district will provide support to students and staff after an incident of violence or student suicide.

The superintendent will develop and implement the plan and a staff training schedule to achieve the Board's goals and objectives.

Cross References: Policy 2140
Policy 3207
Policy 3211

Guidance and Counseling
Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
Transgender Students

References: RCW 28A.410.043
RCW 28A.321.127

RCW 28A.420.226

School Counselor Certification
Plan for recognition, screening and
response to emotional or behavioral
distress in students.
Washington professional educator
standards board – training program

RCW 28A.320.1271

on youth suicide screening –
Certificates for school nurse, social
workers, psychologists and
counselors – Adoption of standards
Model school district plan for
recognition, initial screening, and
response to emotional or behavioral
distress in students,

Management Resources:

2014 – December
Policy News, April 2011

Youth Suicide Awareness and
Prevention Plans

Adoption Date: June 21, 2012
Colton School District
Revised: 0416