

Book	Policy Manual
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5350 - STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that mental health conditions and self-injury are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A student who suffers from a mental health condition such as depression and who has attempted self-injury poses a danger both to himself/herself and to other students.

In accordance with law, the Board will provide appropriate instruction on personal safety and assault prevention to all students in grades K-6. Additionally, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the District will include in health education at least one (1) hour (or a standard class period) of evidence-based instruction for students in grades 6-12 in each of the following topics:

- A. suicide awareness and prevention;
- B. safety training and violence prevention; and
- C. social inclusion.

The Board shall use a training program that is approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Instruction may be provided during student assemblies, digital learning, and homework to satisfy the instruction requirement. Upon request of a parent/guardian, a student will be excused from instruction in these areas.

All school personnel should be alert for students who exhibit signs of unusual mental health-related behavior or who threaten or attempt self-injury or suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness.

In accordance with Policy 8462, designated staff shall receive professional development training in accordance with Board-adopted curriculum that includes the risk factors, warning signs, and resources regarding youth suicide awareness and prevention at least every two (2) years.

Additional professional development training in youth suicide risk assessment and intervention shall be provided to mental health employees, counselors, teachers, administrators, school psychologists, and school nurses.

The Board shall adopt or adapt an evidence-based awareness and prevention curriculum approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), or alternatively will utilize a suicide awareness and prevention curriculum that has been developed in consultation with public or private agencies/persons involved in youth suicide awareness and prevention and that has been approved by the ODE.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative guidelines whereby members of the professional staff understand how to use an intervention procedure which includes the following:

- Step 1 - Stabilization
- Step 2 - Assessment of the Risk
- Step 3 - Use of Appropriate Risk Procedure
- Step 4 - Communication with Appropriate Parties

Step 5 - Follow-up

Throughout any intervention, it is essential that Board policies and District guidelines regarding confidentiality be observed at all times.

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Last Modified by Regina Jutz on October 7, 2021