

Dyer County Board of Education

Descriptor Term:

Student Suicide Prevention

Descriptor Code:

JCAG

Board Approved:

1/3/17

Rescinds:

Board Approved:

1 Dyer County Schools is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all students and
2 understands that physical, behavioral, and emotional health are integral components of student
3 achievement. Faculty and staff are expected to be proactive in maintaining a safe and supportive
4 learning environment and to immediately report to the building principal any indications to report that a
5 student may be in danger of harming self or others. Students are strongly encouraged to report if they, or
6 another student, are feeling suicidal or in need of help. A summary of available resources shall be
7 annually updated and posted for students.

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9 **PREVENTION**

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11 All district employees shall attend either the annual in-service training in suicide prevention or participate in
12 other equivalent training approved by the director of schools. The training shall include, but not be limited to,
13 identification of risk factors, warning signs, intervention and response procedures, referrals, and postvention
14 strategies.

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16 The director of schools shall identify a district suicide prevention coordinator responsible for planning,
17 coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. Each school principal shall designate a school
18 suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in each school for issues relating to suicide
19 prevention and policy implementation.

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21 **INTERVENTION**

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23 Any employee who has reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of suicide shall report such
24 belief to the principal or designee. Belief that a student is at imminent risk of suicide shall include, but
25 not be limited to, the student verbalizing the desire to commit suicide, evidence of a suicide attempt, an
26 act of self-harm, or a student self-referral.

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28 Upon notification, the principal or designee shall ensure the student is placed under continuous adult
29 supervision. Emergency medical services shall be contacted immediately if an in-school suicide attempt
30 occurs. The principal or designee shall contact the director of schools or designee as soon as practicable.

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32 Prior to contacting the student's parent/guardian, the director of schools or designee shall determine if
33 there could be further risk of harm resulting from parent/guardian notification. If parent/guardian
34 notification could result in further risk of harm or endanger the health or well-being of the student, then
35 local law enforcement and the Department of Children's Services shall be contacted.

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37 If appropriate, the director of schools or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian and provide
38 the following information:

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1. Inform the parent/guardian that there is reason to believe the student is at risk of suicide;

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- 1 2. Inform the parent/guardian if emergency services were contacted;
 - 2 3. Ask the parent/guardian whether he/she wishes to obtain or has obtained mental health
 - 3 counseling for the student;
 - 4 4. Provide the names of community mental health counseling resources if available.
- 5 The director of schools or designee will seek parental permission to communicate with outside mental
 6 health care providers regarding a student. If the student is under the age of 16 and the parent/guardian
 7 refuses to seek appropriate assistance, the director of schools or designee shall contact the Department of
 8 Children’s Services.

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- 10 The director of schools or designee shall document the incident, including contact with the
 11 parent/guardian by recording:
- 12 1. The time, date and circumstances which resulted in the student coming to the attention of school
 - 13 officials;
 - 14 2. A timeline of the specific actions taken by school officials;
 - 15 3. The parent/guardian contacted, including attempts;
 - 16 4. The parent/guardian’s response; and
 - 17 5. Time and date of release of student to authorized individual.
 - 18 6. Anticipated follow-up and safety plan.

19 Prior to a student returning to school, the director of schools or designee and/or principal shall meet with
 20 the student and his/her parent or guardian in order to develop a safety plan. The safety plan shall identify
 21 actions the student’s caregivers and school personnel will take to insure the safety of the student. The
 22 principal will identify an employee to periodically meet with the student to monitor his/her safety and
 23 address any problems or concerns with re-entry.

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25 **POSTVENTION**

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- 27 Immediately following a student suicide death, the school or district crisis team shall meet and develop a
 28 postvention plan. At a minimum, the postvention plan shall address the following:
- 29 1. Verification of death;
 - 30 2. Preparation of school and/or district response, including support services
 - 31 3. Informing faculty and staff of a student death;
 - 32 4. Informing students that a death has occurred;
 - 33 5. Providing information on the resources available to students, faculty, and staff.
- 34 The crisis team shall work with teachers to identify the students most likely to be impacted by the death
 35 in order to provide additional assistance and counseling if needed. Additionally, staff and faculty will
 36 immediately review suicide warning signs and reporting requirements. The director of schools or
 37 designee shall be responsible for all media inquiries.

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