

SECTION: OPERATIONS

# CARLISLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE: SUICIDE AWARENESS,  
PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE

ADOPTED: August 20, 2015

REVISED:

	819. SUICIDE AWARENESS, PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE
1. Purpose SC 1526 Pol. 103.1, 248, 249, 806	The Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; maintain a safe school environment, establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt; and to promote access to suicide awareness and prevention resources.
2. Authority SC 1526 Title 22 Sec. 12.12 Pol. 207, 216, 236	In compliance with state law and regulations, and in support of the district's suicide prevention measures, information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student's parents/guardians, the building principal or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or any other person is clearly in jeopardy.
3. Definitions	<p>This policy shall apply in any situation where a student is at-risk for suicide or following a student's suicide threat or attempt on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, or on any public vehicle providing transportation to or from a school-sponsored activity. The district shall notify district employees, students and parents/guardians of this policy and shall post the policy on the district's website.</p> <p><b>At-Risk for Suicide:</b> any youth with risk factors or warning signs that increase the likelihood of suicidal behavior.</p> <p><b>Risk factors:</b> the personal or environmental characteristics associated with suicide. People affected by one or more of these risk factors have a greater probability of suicidal behavior.</p> <p><b>Suicidal Attempt:</b> a potentially self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence that the person probably intended to kill him/herself.</p> <p><b>Suicide Threat:</b> a verbal or nonverbal communication that an individual intends to harm him/herself with the intention to die, but has not acted on the behavior.</p> <p><b>Warning Signs:</b> evidence-based indicators that someone may be in danger of suicide, either immediately or in the very near future.</p>

<p>4. Guidelines SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROTOCOLS FOR ADMINISTERING EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Students shall periodically receive age-appropriate education on youth suicide awareness and prevention. The Superintendent or designee shall develop age appropriate educational materials and determine the most effective means of instruction for students.</p> <p>District employees shall receive information regarding youth suicide awareness and prevention. The Superintendent or designee shall identify appropriate staff to receive this information and the most effective means of delivery.</p> <p>As part of the district’s professional development plan, professional educators at the Middle and High School level shall participate in four (4) hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training every five (5) years.</p>
<p>SC 1526 Pol. 333</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>METHODS OF PREVENTION</b></p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop effective methods of prevention, including procedures for early identification and referral of students at risk of suicide. Early identification of individuals with suicidal risk factors or of individuals exhibiting warning signs is crucial to the district’s suicide prevention efforts. To promote awareness, district employees, students, and parents/guardians should be educated about suicidal risk factors and warning signs.</p> <p>Any district employee or contracted services provider who has identified a student at risk of suicide shall refer the student to the building administrator for further assessment and intervention consistent with this policy. District employees, in consultation with appropriate administrators, possess the discretion and judgment to identify at-risk students requiring referral.</p>
<p>SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>METHODS OF INTERVENTION</b></p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop methods of intervention in a suicide threat, including when outward signs of risk factors and warning signs are exhibited. The methods of intervention utilized by the district include, but are not limited to, responding to suicide threats, suicide attempts, and completed suicide, in and outside of school. Where appropriate, suicide intervention procedures shall address the development of an emotional or mental health safety plan for each student identified as being at increased risk of suicide. The district shall identify mental health service providers to whom students can be referred for further assessment and assistance.</p>

Pol. 806	<p>A district-approved suicide assessment instrument may be used by trained mental health staff such as counselors, psychologists, and/or social workers.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians of a student identified as being at risk of suicide shall be notified by the school when appropriate and as soon as practicable. If the school or any mandated reporter suspects that the student's risk status is the result of abuse or neglect, that individual shall immediately report the suspected abuse consistent with Child Abuse Policy, 806.</p>
SC 1526	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>METHODS OF RESPONSE TO SUICIDE OR SUICIDE ATTEMPT</b></p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop recommended guidelines for responding to a suicidal act or attempt on school grounds or during a school-sponsored event. The guidelines may include a list of suicidal risk factors and warning signs. The methods of response to a suicide or a suicide attempt include, but are not limited to: immediate notification of the building principal or designee, if the attempted/completed suicide was on district property; notification of parents and/or guardians of student, if the attempted/completed suicide was on district property; utilizing a trained school crisis response/crisis intervention team; notifying and working with other district students, employees, and parents/guardians who may be affected; responding appropriately to the media; and/or collaborating with community and mental health providers.</p>
SC 1526	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REPORTING PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>Effective documentation assists in preserving the safety of the student and ensuring communication among school staff, parents/guardians, and mental health service providers. District employees shall be responsible for effective documentation of incidents involving suicide prevention, intervention, and response. Information and reports shall be provided, as appropriate, to guidance counselors, district mental health professionals and school nurses.</p>
SC 1526	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION RESOURCES</b></p> <p>A list of suicide awareness and prevention resources is available to students, staff, and parents/guardians through the district's website, and through the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website (<a href="http://www.education.pa.gov">www.education.pa.gov</a>).</p>

	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1526</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.12</p> <p>Board Policy – 103.1, 113, 113.2, 113.3, 114, 117, 204, 207, 216, 236, 248, 249, 333, 805, 806</p>
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