



Cabrillo Point Academy

Suicide Prevention Policy

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SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

Cabrillo Point Academy is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all Cabrillo Point Academy students, including vulnerable youth populations¹, by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide and self-harming behavior. The Cabrillo Point Academy Governing Board hereby adopts this Suicide Prevention Policy in compliance with California *Education Code (EC)* Section 215, as added by Assembly Bill 2246, (Chapter 642, Statutes of 2016) and other federal, state and local efforts to provide youth with prevention education, early identification and intervention, and access to all local resources to promote health and prevent personal harm or injury.

The purpose of the Cabrillo Point Academy Governing Board approving this Suicide Prevention Policy is to accomplish the following:

- Explain the Purpose and Requirements of the Suicide Prevention Policy
- Outline Requirements of Coordination and Consultation with County Health Plan
- Outline Staff Training on Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- Establish Restrictions on Employee Authorization and Scope
- Outline Measures and Strategies for Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention
- Outline the Process for Implementing the Suicide Prevention Policy
- Outline Requirements of Policy Review

PURPOSE

Cabrillo Point Academy recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth, prevention is a collective effort that requires stakeholder engagement, and 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, its impact on students and families, and other trauma associated with suicide, the Executive Director or designee shall develop age appropriate measures, strategies, practices and supports for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

The Executive Director or designee may consult with school and other community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts, in planning, implementing, and evaluating the school's measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

Cabrillo Point Academy recognizes that physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's educational outcome. Cabrillo Point Academy is aware of the school's ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide, and acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which helps to foster positive youth development.

¹*Vulnerable youth populations include LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) youth, youth living with mental and/or substance use disorders, youth who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide, youth in out-of-home settings, youth experiencing homelessness, American Indian/Alaska Native youth or youth that identify with other racial minority groups, youth bereaved by suicide and youth living with medical conditions and disabilities.*

COUNTY COORDINATION

School staff must work in conjunction with local government agencies, community-based organizations, and other community supports to identify additional resources. If a referral is made for mental health or related services for a student who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary, the school staff shall coordinate and consult with the county mental health plan.

SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING

All staff will receive annual training on suicide awareness and prevention which includes identification of risk factors and warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals for support through the school and community resources, and postvention procedures. The training shall also include additional information regarding groups of students judged by the school, and available research, to be at elevated risk for suicide. Materials for training shall include how to identify appropriate school-based and community-based mental health services. Additional training in risk assessment and crisis intervention will be provided to school employed mental health professionals.

EMPLOYEE AUTHORIZATION AND SCOPE

Employees of Cabrillo Point Academy and their partners must act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging a school employee to diagnose or treat mental illness unless the employee is specifically licensed and employed to do so.

PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION MEASURES AND STRATEGIES

As appropriate, the measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention shall specifically address the needs of vulnerable youth population and other groups of students judged by the school, and available research, to be at elevated risk for suicide. These measures and strategies shall include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being within the school's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) model at an age appropriate level and sensitive to the needs of young pupils.
- Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school.
- Review of materials and resources used for enhancing stakeholder knowledge, awareness, and communication and ensuring their alignment with best practices for safe and effective messaging about suicide.
- Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts for all staff that include the utilization of the school's mental health professionals, crisis coordinator(s), and administrators for screening, consultation, support, and communication.
- Counseling, consultation, debriefing and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The Executive Director or designee shall establish the school's crisis intervention team to ensure the proper implementation and review of this policy and school practices related to the emotional and behavioral wellness of students, including, but not limited to, the oversight of mental health and suicide prevention training, collaboration with community mental health organizations, identification of resources and organizations that provide evidence-based treatment, collaboration to build community response, and compliance with Education Code 215.

The school shall post this policy on the school's web site, in a prominent location and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students.

POLICY REVIEW

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