

Suicide Prevention

The Board of Directors recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that suicidal indicators are complex issues that should be taken seriously. While ESD employees may recognize potentially suicidal youth, and the ESD may make an initial risk assessment, the ESD cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling that may be necessary to address suicidal indicators. ESD program participants who exhibit suicidal behaviors are to be referred to an appropriate service for further assessment and counseling.

ESD employees who have knowledge of a suicide threat must take the proper steps to support the ESD program participant and report the suicide threat to the program administrator or a cabinet member, who will, in turn, ensure the appropriate individuals, including the participant's family, are notified and appropriate resources are provided.

The board also recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures. The ESD will adopt and, at the beginning of each fiscal year, provide to all ESD employees who provide direct services to students, 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 employees on recognizing, screening and referral of students in emotional or behavioral distress, including those who exhibit indicators of substance or sexual abuse, violence or suicide;
- Describe how to utilize the expertise of ESD employees trained in recognition, screening and referral;
- Provide guidelines, based on employee 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 program participants to support services, to include development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the ESD and one such entity;
- Contain procedures for communication with parents and guardians, including notification requirements in accordance with [RCW 28A.320.160](#);
- Describe how employees should respond to a crisis situation where a program participant is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;
- Describe how the ESD will provide support to program participants and employees after an incident of violence, suicide or alleged sexual abuse involving a program participant;
- Describe how employees should respond when allegations of sexual contact or abuse are made against a employees member, volunteer, parent, guardian or family member of a program participant, including how employees should interact with parents, law enforcement and child protective services;
- Describe how the ESD will provide to certificated and classified employees the training on the obligation to report physical abuse or sexual misconduct required under [RCW 28A.400.317](#).

The Superintendent will develop and implement the plan and an employee training schedule to achieve the board's goals and objectives.

Cross References:

3211 - Gender-Inclusive Schools

3207 - Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying of Students

2140 - Comprehensive School Counseling Program

Legal References:

RCW 28A.410.226 Washington professional educator standards board — Training program on youth suicide screening — Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors — Adoption of standards.

RCW 28A.410.043 School Counselor Certification

RCW 28A.320.1271 Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.

RCW 28A.320.127 Plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.

Adoption Date: **10-28-25**