

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES

The Jackson Public School District is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its scholars and school community. To that end, each school building has a designated crisis response team and crisis response plan in the event of an emergent situation. The District will use the following procedures to address suicide prevention and response and ensure the District is responding in an urgent, safe, and efficient manner.

1. Prevention

Every school meets the MDE mandate for suicide prevention training to be completed every two years with proof of a certificate. Professional School Counselor provide training with the staff during the Fall semester of each school year and as needed throughout the school year. Documentation of this is kept with the principal and/or the counselor.

2. Intervention

The response to this report is taken with an extreme sense of urgency and reported immediately to the building administrator and/or professional school counselor.

If the scholar has an incident at school, then he/she will not be allowed to leave the campus until a parent/guardian conference and notice of next steps are provided by the professional school counselor and principal. This is documented on our Crisis Response Form.

The parent/guardian of the identified scholar must be contacted to have a meeting with the building administrator and professional school counselor to express concerns that have been shared concerning the threat to harm self or others.

While the information is shared with the parent/guardian, the request is made to have the scholar receive an external psychological evaluation from an agency of choice made by the parent/guardian and to only return to school with clearance from the agency as an official notice for return. The clearance must come from a reputable agency, with a clinician having obtained minimally a Master's degree in Mental Health Therapy.

In case of a parent/guardian's request for their child to be evaluated on campus, the professional school counselor can make a referral to Hinds Behavior Health Services or Marion Counseling to provide a risk assessment to the scholar. If the agency should clear the scholar to return to school immediately, documentation will be provided to the professional school counselor to be kept on file.

In the event the parent/guardian is unable to get their child(ren) to an external evaluator, the principal/department leader may provide information to the parent/guardian /guardian to schedule an evaluation with a certified District social worker to complete the risk assessment, and determine if and when the child is cleared to return to the learning environment.

If a scholar is exceptional education, this scholar's IEP committee, which should include the IEP teacher, regular education teacher, agency representative,

behavior support, professional school counselor and case manager shall be members of this committee to determine if this behavior is a manifestation of the child's disability (MDR). This must take place before the scholar leaves the campus, because the scholar must still receive services while not in school.

3. Post-Event

Information received by the external agency related to the incident will be placed with the scholar's confidential records and a follow-up check-in and check-out plan will be put in place for the scholar. In cases where the scholar needs a safety plan, it will be created by a team to include the administrator, professional school counselor and scholar's teacher(s) and each person of this team will have a copy of this plan. We may also include behavior support team at the school level and district level, if needed.

If the scholar's behavior or tendencies continue to reoccur that require long-term attention, the committee will request support from the behavior support team for further evaluation and observations. This may also lead to another referral for crisis.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi

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