

Students

SUBJECT: SUICIDE

The BOCES is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all students by creating and maintaining policies, procedures, and plans for the prevention, intervention and post-intervention of suicide.

The Board instructs the District Superintendent to establish a BOCES crisis intervention team. Members of the team should include, but are not limited to, a BOCES administrator, school counselor, criminal justice teacher, and/or a school social worker and any BOCES staff member who can be of assistance during a crisis. The crisis intervention team will develop a suicide/tragedy response plan which will be integrated into the existing BOCES-wide school safety plan and emergency response plans. These plans will also include the BOCES providing both TCIS and CALM training to appropriate staff. The suicide/tragedy plan will include education and awareness of risk factors for youth suicide, procedures for intervening if a student exhibits risk factors, including referral services, and a post-intervention plan to help the school and community cope with the aftermath of suicide/tragedy should it occur.

The administration will inform staff of BOCES policies, procedures, and plans for suicide prevention, intervention, and post-intervention. The BOCES will actively respond to any situation where a student verbally or behaviorally indicates intent to attempt suicide or engage in self-harm. When BOCES staff become aware of a student exhibiting potential suicidal behavior, they should immediately escort the student to a member of the BOCES' crisis intervention team and report the behavior to an administrator.

Component school districts will include suicide prevention in the curriculum as developmentally appropriate to provide students with information and resources on this important mental health issue. Additionally, the BOCES will foster interagency cooperation that will enable staff to provide counseling and identify appropriate community resources to aid students in times of crisis.

The BOCES will inform students, staff and parents or guardians of the 988 hotline which connects callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Professional Development/Learning and Training

Staff training and professional development/learning on crisis intervention should be offered annually. The training should include: information on how to identify warning signs for suicide, and the protocols to follow when referring a student thought to be at risk for suicide; a description of the roles and responsibilities of the crisis intervention team; and the flow of communication and the tasks each role of the crisis intervention team undertakes.

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3420 -- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the BOCES
#5681 -- School Safety Plans
#7550 -- Dignity for All Students
#7553 -- Hazing of Students

Adoption Date: 12/12/24