

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

No. 253

Section: 200 Pupils

Title: Youth Suicide  
Awareness and Prevention

Adopted: June 16, 2016

Revised: January 26, 2023

253 YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

**Purpose**

The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to protecting and supporting the physical and mental health of students and to maintaining safe, welcoming, and healthy environments in every School District of Philadelphia (“District”) school and building.

Suicide impacts students and the entire school community. Therefore, the purpose of this Policy is to promote the health, safety and welfare of students; promote healthy development; safeguard against the threat, attempt, or completion of suicide among students; and maintain support for students and school communities in such events.

**Authority**

As required by the Pennsylvania Public School Code, the Board shall adopt a suicide awareness and prevention policy to promote the health and safety of its students.[1]

**Delegation of Responsibility**

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Student Support Services, to promote the safety and welfare of students, to establish suicide prevention, risk assessment, intervention, and postvention procedures; including educating school personnel and students on the risk factors, protective factors, actions, and resources necessary to prevent suicide and promote mental well-being. The Administrative Procedures shall contain the equivalent content as required by law.[1]

The Office of Student Support Services will notify District employees of this Policy through annual training and will post the Policy on the District’s website.[1]

**Legal References:**

1. 24 P.S. § 15-1526(a-c)

**Related Information:**

[Administrative Procedures for Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention](#)