

Administrative Procedures for Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention
(Attachment for Policy No. 253 and consistent with Act 71)

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment in all School District of Philadelphia (“District”) schools and acknowledges the impact of suicide on students’ physical and mental health, academic performance, and ability to participate in activities that provide a well-rounded education. Suicide impacts students, families, and the entire school community. Therefore, the purpose of these Administrative Procedures is to promote the health, safety and welfare of students’ development and to safeguard against the threat, attempt, or death by suicide among students, and to provide support in such events.

These Administrative Procedures shall describe procedures for several different activities along the continuum of suicide prevention in the District. These activities include the following:

- a) To provide protocol if a student expresses suicidal thoughts or intention of self-harm on District property, at any District-sponsored activity, on any District vehicle providing transportation to or from a school or District-sponsored activity;
- b) To provide school procedures following a student’s suicide threat or attempt that does not occur on District property or during a District sponsored activity, but that is reported to any District personnel;
- c) To provide protocol for acute crisis response immediately after (e.g., same or next day) a student has died by suicide;
- d) To provide postvention protocol and activities to help the school community recover after a suicide event (the weeks following a suicide event);
- e) To provide re-entry protocol for a student following hospitalization for suicidal ideation or suicide attempt;
- f) To provide at least 4 hours of gatekeeper training to all educators across the District every five years, fulfilling Act 71 mandate;
- g) To provide additional professional development in risk assessment, elevated risk factors, and crisis intervention for school counselors, school social workers, and psychologists;
- h) To provide protocol for parental information notification and involvement; and
- i) To provide student awareness education.

Procedures

These Administrative Procedures shall apply in any situation where a student is expressing suicidal ideation or threats, including verbal or physical behaviors, on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, or on any public vehicle providing transportation to or from a school, or portal to portal, or school-sponsored activity. These Administrative Procedures shall also apply following a suicide threat or attempt that does not occur on school grounds or during a school-sponsored activity, but that is reported to any school personnel. In conformity with Pennsylvania Law, the District has developed resources and protocols for the the following situations and requirements:

- a) Protocol if a student expresses suicidal thoughts or intention of self-harm on District property, at any District-sponsored activity, on any District vehicle providing transportation to or from a school or District-sponsored activity:
 - i) The District's protocol in this respect can be found at the following [LINK](#).
 - ii) Other than linked above, the Department of Transportation Services will follow normal incident protocols for student expressions of suicidal thoughts or intentions of self-harm on District transportation.
- b) Protocol following a student's suicide threat or attempt that does not occur on District property or during a District sponsored activity, but that is reported to any District personnel:
 - i) The District's protocol in this respect can be found at the following [LINK](#).
- c) Protocol for acute crisis response immediately after (e.g., same or next day) a student has died by suicide:
 - i) The District's protocol in this respect can be found at the following [LINK](#).
- d) Protocol and activities to help the school community recover after a suicide event (the weeks following a suicide event):
 - i) The District's protocol in this respect can be found at the following [LINK](#).
- e) Protocol for a student following hospitalization for suicidal ideation or suicide attempt:
 - i) The District's protocol in this respect can be found at the following [LINK](#).
- f) Protocol for at least 4 hours of gatekeeper training to all educators across the District every five years, fulfilling Act 71 mandate:
 - i) The District provides an hour of training on Cornerstone annually to all staff and requires certain school staff to complete the same. The list of staff that completed the training will be stored and maintained in Cornerstone. The list will be reviewed by the Office of Prevention and Intervention for compliance. On a regular basis, the training materials will be reviewed for quality and applicability to the District setting.
- g) Provide additional professional development in risk assessment, elevated risk factors, and crisis intervention for school counselors, school social workers, and psychologists:
 - i) The District offers various professional development opportunities in risk assessment, etc. throughout each year.
- h) Provide protocol for parental information notification and involvement:
 - i) The District's protocol in this respect can be found at the following [LINK](#).
- i) Student Awareness Education:
 - i) The District is implementing the evidence-based Signs of Suicide (SOS) program to provide suicide awareness education to students, staff, and families. SOS teaches students how to identify signs of depression and suicide within themselves and friends. Additional mental support is available during and after this training for students. Additionally, the program provides training for parents, community, and school staff, in addition to their yearly training, that focuses on teaching them to recognize at-risk students and what next steps to take to support that youth.

Maintenance Schedule

These Administrative Procedures shall be reviewed upon review of the Policy, or upon the occurrence of a triggering event.

Related Information:

Recommended Resources for Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Crisis Intervention Resources (Emergency Services and Lifelines)

Emergency Services in Philadelphia:

- **9-1-1**
- **Nearest Hospital Emergency Department**
- **Mental Health Delegate 24/7:** Compassionate, trained professionals are available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Callers will receive counseling, guidance and direction for receiving prompt evaluation and treatment services. If needed, they will come to your home, school to complete the assessment. (215) 685-6440
- **Philadelphia Children's Crisis Response Center:** 24/7. The center serves children and adolescents, ages 3-17. Philadelphia Children's Crisis Response Center treats children and adolescents experiencing an acute mental health crisis. 3300 Henry Avenue, Falls Center 2, Suite 3N, Philadelphia, PA 19129. (215) 878-2600
<https://www.philachildrensccr.com>
- **PATH Children's Urgent Care Center:** The UCC serves children/youth who are experiencing a serious behavioral health issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Ages served: 3-18, as well as those youth 18-21 who continue to receive children's services if they continue to be enrolled in school, or they continue to be in the custody of DHS. If hospitalization (partial or inpatient is needed, this service is not appropriate). 1919 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 1911. (215) 728-4651
<http://www.pathcenter.org/bh/Children's%20Urgent%20Care%20Center.htm>

Lifelines:

- Dial 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline: 24 hours a day 7 days a week, PLEASE talk to someone if you are in a crisis. Just dial 988
<https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/youth>
- The **Philly HopeLine:** (833) PHL-HOPE/ (833) 745-4673. The Philly HopeLine is an award-winning free and confidential helpline run by Uplift Center for Grieving Children in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia as a resource for students and caregivers. The HopeLine is staffed by Master's-level clinicians from Uplift. We offer

dedicated service hours for grieving Spanish speakers and LGBTQ+ youth, and our interpretation line supports over 150 different language needs.

- Philadelphia Warm-line: (855)507-9276
- **Text “Brave” to 741-741** which connects to a Crisis Text Line, or Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) if you feel you are in crisis and need to talk NOW.
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 24-hour, toll-free for anyone in suicidal crisis or their friends and loved ones. 1.800.273.8255 (TALK). Callers are routed to the closest possible crisis center in their area. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>
- **The Trevor Lifeline:** The only nationwide, around-the-clock, crisis intervention and suicide prevention lifeline for LGBTQ young people, ages 13-24 1.866.488.7386
- **TrevorChat:** Free, confidential, secure instant messaging service for LGBTQ young people, ages 13-24 <http://www.TheTrevorProject.org>

Non-Emergent Resources:

- [All the Feels Student Journal](#)
- 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: A report by the U.S. Surgeon General and the National Alliance for Suicide <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/suicide-prevention/index.html>
- Act 71 <https://codes.findlaw.com/pa/title-24-ps-education/pa-st-sect-24-15-1526.html>
- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** <http://www.afsp.org/>
- **Girl’s Health.Gov**
The “Your Feelings” section offers support and information to teenage girls about mental health and emotional well-being, recognizing when to get help, and who to turn to for support. <https://www.girlshealth.gov/feelings/index.html>
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ):** Affirming service providers adhere to best practices guidelines for LGBTQ clients <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/guidelines.aspx>
- **NAMI Teens and Young Adults**

Information on this website includes how to recognize the signs of mental illness, how to help a friend, how to manage mental health while in college, and how to take charge of your mental health.

<https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults>

- **NIH: FAQ About Suicide**

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States and a major public health concern. When a person dies by suicide, the effects are felt by family, friends, and communities. This brochure, developed by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), can help you, a friend, or a family member learn more about the warning signs of suicide, ways to help prevent suicide, and effective treatment options.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-faq>

- **MentalHealth.Gov for Educators**

Educators are often the first to notice mental health concerns in their students. This website provides ways educators, families, and caregivers can help young people, students and their families who may need mental health support and resources.

<https://www.mentalhealth.gov/talk/educators>

- **“Signs of Suicide” Prevention Program (SOS)**

[SOS overview](#)

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – Suicide Prevention Information**

<http://www.samhsa.gov/suicide-prevention>

- **Suicide Prevention Resource Center**

<http://www.sprc.org/>

- **The Jed Foundation- Protecting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide**

Transitioning into adulthood can bring big changes and intense challenges. The Jed Foundation (JED) empowers teens and young adults with the skills and support to grow into healthy, thriving adults.

<https://jedfoundation.org>

- **Youth Matters Philly**

Find What You Need When You Need It: A web app designed to help vulnerable Philly youth locate & rate community resources

<https://www.youthmattersphilly.org>

- **Youth Suicide Warning Signs**

<http://www.youthsuicidewarningsigns.org>

- **Youth Suicide Definitions**

[Important Youth Suicide Definitions](#)

Resources Recommended by PDE:

- A comprehensive set of resources for youth suicide awareness and prevention is accessible at [PDE Suicide Prevention & Awareness](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Task Forces](#): are groups of dedicated individuals that are committed to reducing the number of suicides and offering support to those who have been touched by suicide within their communities/counties in Pennsylvania.
- [List of County CASSP and Children's Behavioral Health Contact Persons](#)
- [List of County Crisis Intervention Services](#)
- [Oct. 2014 Dear Colleague Letter related to peer harassment of students with disabilities](#)
- [SAMHSA's Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools](#)
- [Services for Teens at Risk \(STAR-Center\)](#)