

Bartlett City Board of Education		6054
Descriptor Term: STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION	Descriptor Code: Student Services	Issue Date: 08/25/2016
	Rescinds:	Revised: 03/23/2023

1 The Board is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all students and understands
2 that physical, behavioral, and emotional health are integral components of student achievement.
3 Students are strongly encouraged to report if they, or a friend, are feeling suicidal or in need of
4 help. Such students will be provided information regarding The National Suicide Prevention
5 Lifeline – 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

6 **PREVENTION¹**

7 The Superintendent shall designate a district suicide prevention coordinator responsible for
8 planning, coordinating, and monitoring the implementation of this policy. Each school Principal
9 shall designate a school suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in each school
10 for suicide prevention and policy implementation issues. All District employees shall attend either
11 the annual in-service training in suicide prevention or participate in other equivalent training
12 approved by the Superintendent. The training shall include, but not be limited to, identification of
13 risk factors, warning signs, intervention and response procedures, referrals, and postvention.

14 **INTERVENTION¹**

15 Any employee who has reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of suicide shall report
16 such belief to the principal or school counselor. Belief that a student is at imminent risk of suicide
17 shall include, but not be limited to, the student verbalizing the desire to commit suicide, evidence
18 of self-harm, or a student self-refers.

19 Upon notification, the principal or counselor shall ensure the student is placed under adult
20 supervision. Emergency medical services shall be contacted immediately if an in-school suicide
21 attempt occurs. The principal or his/her designee shall contact the Superintendent or the Chief of
22 Student Services as soon as practicable.

23 The principal or counselor shall ensure documentation of the following:

- 24 1. The time, date, and circumstances which resulted in the student coming to the officials of
25 school officials;
- 26 2. A timeline of the specific actions taken by school officials;
- 27 3. The parent/guardian contacted, including attempts at contacting the parent/guardian; and
- 28 4. Time and date of release of the student to an authorized parent/guardian.

29 Prior to contacting the student’s parent/guardian, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall
30 determine if there could be further risk of harm resulting from parent/guardian notification. If
31 parent/guardian notification could result in further risk of harm or endanger the health or well-

¹ Public Acts of 2016, Chapter No. 623

1 being of the student, then local law enforcement and the Department of Children's Services shall
2 be contacted.²

3 If appropriate, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian
4 and provide the following information:

- 5 1. Inform the parent/guardian that there is reason to believe the student is at risk for suicide;
- 6 2. Inform the parent/guardian if emergency services were contacted;
- 7 3. Ask the parent/guardian whether he/she wishes to obtain or has obtained mental health
8 counseling for the student; and
- 9 4. Provide the names of community mental health counseling resources if appropriate;

10 The Superintendent or his/her designee will seek parental permission to communicate with
11 outside mental health care providers regarding a student. If the student is under the age of 18
12 and the parent/guardian refuses to seek appropriate assistance, the Superintendent or designee
13 shall contact the Department of Children's Services.²

14 The Superintendent or his/her designee shall document the contact with the parent/guardian by
15 recording:

- 16 1. The time and date of the contact;
- 17 2. The individual contacted;
- 18 3. The parent/guardian's response; and
- 19 4. Anticipated follow-up.

20 The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure the student is under adult supervision until
21 a parent/guardian or other authorized individual accepts responsibility for the student's safety.

22 Prior to a student returning to school, the Superintendent or his/her designee and/or the principal
23 shall meet with the student's parent/guardian, and student if appropriate. The parent/guardian
24 shall provide documentation from a mental health care provider stating that the student has
25 received care and is no longer a danger to themselves or others.

26 **POSTVENTION¹**

27 Immediately following a student suicide death, Student Services personnel and counseling staff
28 shall work with teachers to identify the students most likely to be impacted by the death in order
29 to provide additional assistance and counseling if needed. Additionally, staff and faculty will
30 immediately review suicide warning signs and reporting requirements. The Superintendent or
31 his/her designee shall be responsible for all media inquiries.

32 At a minimum, the postvention plan shall document and address the following:

- 33 1. Verification of death;
- 34 2. Preparation of school and/or District response, including support services;
- 35 3. Informing faculty and staff of student death;
- 36 4. Informing students that a death has occurred; and
- 37 5. Providing information on resources available to students, faculty, and staff.

² T.C.A. §37-1-403