

# **Global Preparatory Academy**

**7003**

**Issued Date: 10-2020**

## **SUICIDE**

### **Policy Statement**

It is the responsibility of Global Preparatory Academy School Corporation to provide a safe, supportive, and culturally responsive school environment for all students. The Global Preparatory Academy School Board believes that suicide is a preventable public health problem and acknowledges that all students have the right to be protected from those indicators that put students at higher risk for suicide. The board thus acknowledges the necessity of this policy to ensure school personnel are able to recognize and report students at risk of suicide.

### **Purpose**

- To protect the health and well-being of all Global Preparatory Academy students.
- To establish procedures to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene, and respond to suicide risk in students, staff, and volunteers and make referrals as needed.
- To educate all school personnel on their role in providing an environment that is sensitive to individual and societal factors and one which helps to foster positive youth development.
- To ensure that all efforts will be made to maintain the privacy and dignity of students and families.
- To identify the Suicide Prevention Coordinator and other lead personnel.

### **Response Procedures**

First responders/Staff:

- School personnel may ask some initial screening questions, if appropriate, or make a referral to the suicide prevention coordinator for initial screening and assessment
- Listen to the student with an open and non-judgmental stance; do not dismiss or undervalue what is being shared; be supportive and offer hope.
- It is ok to ask the student if he/she has been thinking about suicide.
- Always take the threat of harm seriously.
- Take immediate action, which may include calling 911 and/or local law enforcement if the student is in imminent danger.
- Notify the School Suicide Prevention Coordinator so s/he can meet with the student and conduct a suicide risk assessment.
- The student should NOT be left unsupervised.
- Notify a school administrator (principal or assistant principal) regarding the potential risk.

# Global Preparatory Academy

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- Document date, time, individuals involved, summary of conversation, etc. and share with the Suicide Prevention Coordinator.
- Following the referral, debrief with appropriate staff involved in the student's referral process (avoid sharing details that may be considered privileged communication or unnecessary details that the student may wish to remain private).

All staff are mandated reporters. If a student speaks of committing suicide outside of school hours to a staff member, they must call 1-800-800-5556.

The following should be conducted by the School Suicide Prevention Coordinator or designee:

- Communicate with the student about contacting parents. Include the student in this conversation with the parent, when possible and appropriate.
- Contact the parent/guardian when there is any risk of harm to inform of the situation and request active involvement in support of the student.

If reasonable attempts to reach the parent/guardian or adult in whose custody the student may be released are not successful, the case will be treated as a medical emergency and arrangements will be made to contact appropriate medical services or local law enforcement. Documentation of all parties attempted to be reached will be made. Failure on the part of the family to take seriously and provide for the safety of the student may be considered emotional neglect and reported to the Indiana Department of Child Services.

- Develop a safety plan for the student. When possible, this should be developed collaboratively with the student, parent, and any other individual(s) determined to be appropriate. The plan should be shared with school administration and other personnel who will be involved in the implementation of the plan.
- Once imminent risk to harm oneself or others is shared, confidentiality is not maintained (no longer considered privileged communication). Inform the School Administrator regarding the imminent risk (danger to self and others), risk level, recommendations, and safety plan.
- ALL actions and assessments must be documented. This should include screening and assessment results, behavioral observations; actions taken, including dates, times, individuals involved; a copy of the safety plan; phone calls; conversations; and follow-up actions. This documentation must be kept by the Suicide Prevention Coordinator in a secure file cabinet, separate from a student's cumulative folder or academic file. It is critical to keep this documentation separate, secure, and confidential.

# **Global Preparatory Academy**

**7003**

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- The school administrator and suicide prevention coordinator should be informed regarding follow-up services, re-entry plan, and recommendations for the student to return to school.

## **Reporting to State Authorities**

If after informing the parent of the situation, failure by the parent or the family to take seriously and provide safety for the student may be considered emotional neglect and may be reported to the Indiana Department of Child Services.

If it is determined by school staff that contacting the parent or guardian would endanger the health or well-being of the student, parent contact may be delayed as appropriate, and DCS and/or local law enforcement should be notified immediately. The school should document reasons for which parents were not immediately notified and information that demonstrates the student's health or well-being was assumed to be in danger. The school administrator or designee must stay at school with the student until the proper authorities arrive and assume responsibility for the child.

## **Support for Students**

School employees, including the suicide prevention coordinator or designee and teachers(s), will collaborate with the family and community resource(s) involved to prepare for re-entry and to continue to monitor the student's safety plan and additional supports needed.

School Counselors, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, Nurses, and other appropriate school personnel are available to provide support and counseling to students who are victims or alleged victims of abuse.

School employees should act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. Only those employees with counseling expertise should provide counseling services. Community referrals may need to be made as necessary. The school should have a list of community resources available for the student and family.

Multidisciplinary/Student support/intervention team meetings should occur for the purpose of providing services and support to students in need. To the extent permitted by confidentiality laws, information may be shared and concerns discussed to coordinate planning services for the student. Appropriate school personnel may also request information outside of the team meeting to coordinate services that may be provided in the community.

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## **School Employee Training**

### **Staff Training Required by Indiana Law**

Per IC 20-28-3-6, after June 30, 2018, evidence-based youth suicide awareness and prevention training is required for all teachers, including Superintendent licensed under IC 20-28-5; principal; teacher; librarian; school counselor; school psychologist; school nurse; school social worker; and any other appropriate school employees who are employed at schools that provide instruction in any combination of grades 5-12.