

THE PREUSS SCHOOL UCSD BOARD POLICY

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RELATED MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION

The Board of Directors of The Preuss School UCSD recognizes that suicide is a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. In order to attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Principal or designee shall develop preventative strategies and intervention procedures.

The Principal or designee shall involve school health professionals, school counselors, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies and professionals, and community organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating the school's strategies for suicide prevention and intervention.

Prevention and Instruction

Suicide prevention strategies shall include, but not limited to, efforts to promote a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.

The school's instructional and student support program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development of students including, but not limited to, the development of problem-solving skill, coping skills and resilience.

The Principal or designee may offer parents/guardians education or information which describes severity of the youth suicide problem, the schools suicide prevention efforts, risk factors and warning signs of suicide, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, reducing the stigma of mental illness, and or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.

Staff Development

Suicide prevention training for staff shall be designed to help staff identify and find help for students at risk of suicide. The training shall be offered under the direction of school staff and/or in cooperation with one or more community mental health agencies and may include information on:

1. Research identify risk factors, such as previous suicide attempt(s), history of depression or mental illness, substance use problems, family history of suicide or violence, feeling of isolation, interpersonal conflicts, a recent severe stressor or loss, family instability, and other factors.
2. Warning signs that may indicate suicidal intentions, including changes in students' mental and emotional health.
3. Research based instructional strategies for teaching the suicide prevention curriculum and promoting mental and emotional health
4. School and community resources and services for students and families in crisis and ways to access them
5. School procedures for intervening when a student attempts, threatens, or discloses the desire to die by suicide.

Intervention

Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, he/she shall promptly notify the principal, another school administrator, psychologist, or school counselor. The principal, another school administrator, psychologist or counselor shall then notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible, and may refer the student to mental health resources in the school, or community.

Students shall be encouraged through the education program and in school activities to notify a teacher, principal, another school administrator, counselor or other adult when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.

The principal or designee shall establish crisis intervention procedures to ensure student safety and appropriate communications in the event that a suicide occurs, or an attempt is made by a member of the student body or staff on campus or at a school-sponsored activity.