

Policy JLDBB Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention

Adopted 11/11/21

The board recognizes the serious problem of youth suicide and acknowledges that youth suicide is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by the district and schools alone. However, the district staff, students, and parents/legal guardians can all contribute significantly towards the prevention of adolescent suicide. Therefore, the board directs the superintendent to consider each of these segments of the school community when developing appropriate awareness and prevention programs in the district.

Local mental health agencies and training guidelines from the South Carolina Department of Education are resources that can provide the necessary assistance that will help the district staff, parents/legal guardians, and students to do the following:

- Understand the developmental stages of adolescence
- Understand how feelings of depression and despair can lead to suicide
- Recognize the early warning signs of suicide
- Learn how to help in a suicidal crisis
- Identify community resources where students can obtain help
- Address the impact of such a tragedy

The superintendent will establish procedures outlining suicide warning signs, risk and protective factors, and risk management strategies.

The superintendent will ensure implementation of the required training in this area for the renewal of credentials for individuals employed in a middle or high school.

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Legal References:

- A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
1. Section 59-26-110 - Youth suicide prevention teacher training.