

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Duties of Faculty and Administrative Staff

Any person employed by the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board who, in the scope of his/her employment, has reason to believe that a student exhibits warning signs of suicide, shall immediately contact a school counselor and/or administrator in order to initiate the appropriate threat assessment protocol. This protocol includes, but is not limited to, contacting at least one of the parents of the student at risk to ask whether such parent is aware of the student's mental state and whether the parent wishes to obtain or has already obtained counseling for the student. If an employee becomes aware of a potential threat to self and is unable to reach a school counselor and/or administrator (such as during non-school hours), the staff member should contact at least one parent directly and notify a school counselor and/or administrator as soon as practical.

Contacting the Parent/Guardian

If the section below titled "Abuse or Neglect" does not apply, the appropriate staff member shall call at least one of the student's parents/guardians and;

1. Provide his/her name and position in the school;
2. Tell the parent/guardian that he/she has reason to believe that the student has exhibited some warning signs of suicide;
3. If in the school environment the staff member should keep the student in his/her presence and assure the parent/guardian that the student is currently safe;
4. State the legal requirement for the call, citing Va. Code § 22.1-272.1;
5. Ask the parent/guardian whether he/she is aware of the student's mental state;
6. Ask the parent/guardian whether he/she wishes to obtain or has obtained mental counseling for the student;
7. Provide names of community counseling resources if appropriate and offer to facilitate the referral by connecting the parent to the student's counselor; and
8. Determine the parent's intent to seek appropriate services for the student.

Abuse or Neglect

If the student has indicated that the reason for being at imminent risk of suicide relates to parental abuse or neglect, contact shall not be made with the parent. Instead, the staff member shall, as soon as practicable, notify the local department of social services of the county or city wherein the child resides or wherein the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred or the state

Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline as required by Va. Code § 63.2 1509. When giving this notice to the local or state department, the person shall stress the need to take immediate action to protect the child from harm. If the staff is not a school counselor or administrator, such staff member should notify one of these individuals of the need for such a call. The school counselor and/or administrator shall then initiate the appropriate threat assessment protocol.

Inability to Reach Parent/Guardian

If the staff member is unable to make contact with the parent/guardian by the end of the school day, then he/she should contact an administrator to determine an alternate course of action.

Required Documentation

The staff member shall document the phone call to the parent/guardian by recording: (a) the time and date of the call; (b) the individual contacted; (c) the parent/guardian's response; and (d) anticipated follow-up. This documentation shall be incorporated into the threat assessment documentation.

Additional Concerns

If parental/guardian contact is made and, in the course of this contact, relevant issues of abuse or neglect are discovered (e.g., a parent acknowledges the child's suicidal intent but indicates no intent to act for the well-being of the child), the staff member shall report the abuse or neglect in accordance with Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy [4012 - *under development*].

Duty to Keep Student Safe and Secure

A student who is at imminent risk of suicide shall remain under adult supervision until a parent/guardian or other authorized individual accepts responsibility for the student's safety.

Adopted: May 19, 2016

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-272.1 and 63.2-1509.

Va. Board of Education "Suicide Prevention Guidelines," (Revised 2003).

Cross Refs:	Pol 4012	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting [<i>under development</i>]
	Pol 2020	School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan
	Form 4008.1	Threat Assessment Flow Chart
	Form 4008.2	Threat Assessment Interview Form
	Form 4008.3	Student Support Plan

Form 4008.4
Form 4008.5

Student Agreement
Action Plan Checklist