STUDENTS **Regulation 2785**

Student Welfare

Student Suicide Awareness

The district will address suicide awareness and prevention through the following policy components[1]:

1. Crisis response team
2. Crisis response procedures
3. Procedures for parent involvement
4. Community resources available to students, parents, patrons and employees
5. Responding to suicidal behavior or death by suicide in the school community
6. Suicide prevention and response protocol education for staff
7. Suicide prevention education for students
8. Publication of policy
9. Teacher Assistance Programs
10. Student Identification Cards

1. Crisis Response Team

The district will include suicide awareness and prevention in already established district or building crisis response teams or will establish such team(s) if not already in existence. Crisis response team members will include administrators, counselors and the school nurse, and may also include school social workers, school resource officers, teachers and/or community resources as appropriate. The crisis response team will be responsible for implementation of crisis response procedures.

The district will adopt an evidence based/informed tool for assessing suicide risk. The crisis response team, the building administrator, or his/her designee will receive training and coaching in using this tool to collect and document student suicidal behaviors and safety planning strategies.

2. Crisis Response Procedures

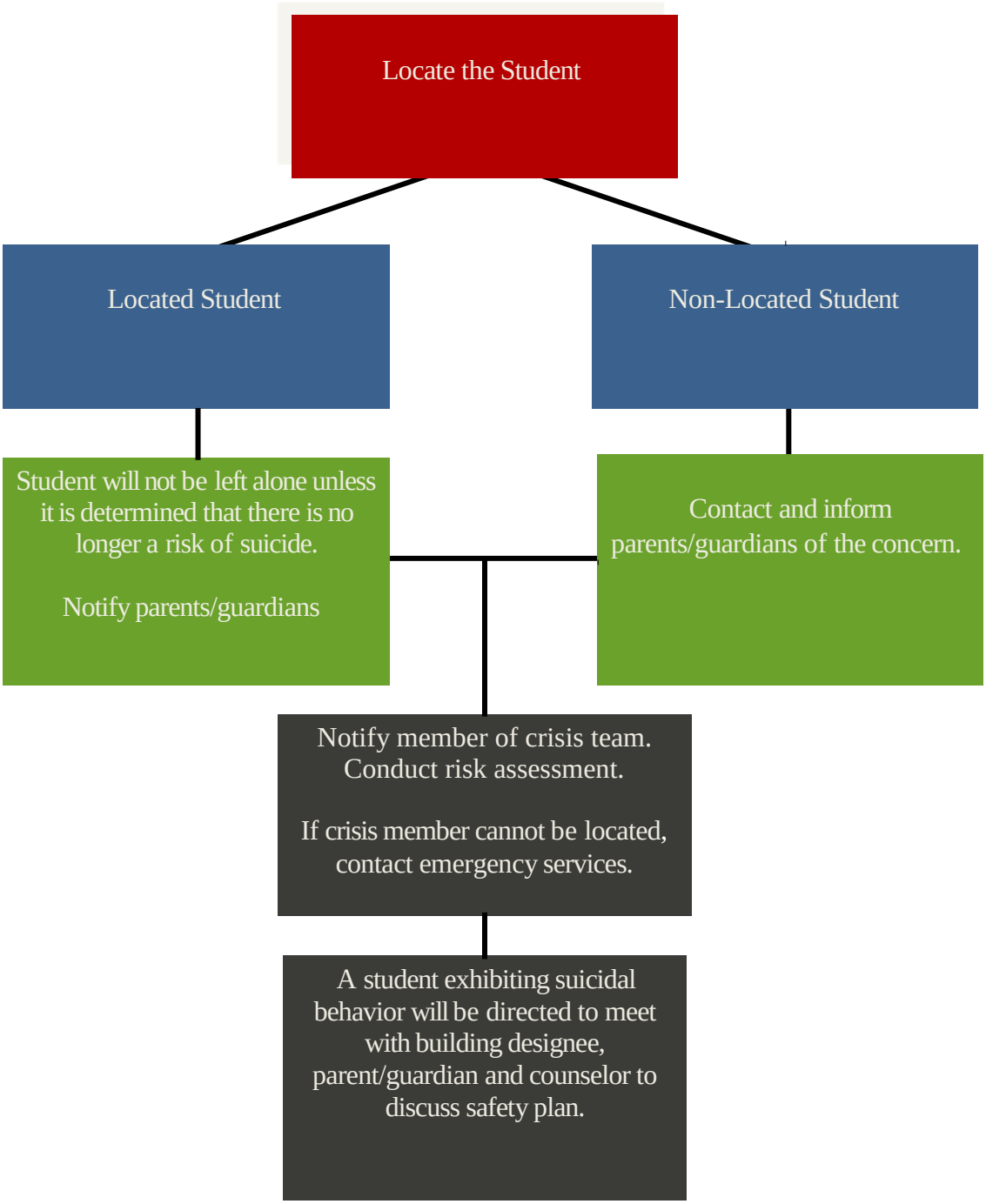
Student suicidal behaviors are not confidential and may be revealed to the student's parents, guardians, school personnel or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student is at risk.

Any school employee who has a reasonable belief that a student may be at risk for suicide or witnesses any attempt towards self-injury will notify a member of the crisis response team, the building administrator or his/her designee.

If a student suicide behavior is made known to any school employee and a member of the crisis response team, the building administrator or his/her designee is not available, the employee will notify the student's parent/guardian, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255) or local law enforcement in an emergency situation. As soon as practical, the employee will notify the building designee or principal.

[1] Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Model Policy

The following steps will be employed in response to any risk of student suicide:



Reference: DESE Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Model Policy

3. Procedures for Parent Involvement

A member of the crisis response team, the building administrator or his/her designee shall reach out to the parents/guardians of a student identified as being at risk of suicide to consult with them about the risk assessment of their student, to make them aware of community resources, and to discuss how to best support the student's mental well-being and safety.

If the parent refuses to cooperate or if there is any doubt regarding the student's safety, local mental service providers and/or law enforcement may need to be engaged, and a report may need to be made to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline.

Contact with a parent concerning risk of suicide will be documented in writing.

4. School and Community Resources

A student exhibiting suicidal behavior will be directed to meet with the building designee, their parent/guardian and counselor to discuss support and safety systems, available resources, coping skills and a safety plan as necessary.

The district will, in collaboration with local organizations and the Missouri Department of Mental Health, identify local, state and national resources and organizations that can provide information or support to students and families. A basic list of resources can be found on the Department of Mental Health website and the district will strive to develop its own list of local resources to be made readily available.
https://dmh.mo.gov/behavioral-health/suicide-prevention

5. Responding to Suicidal Behavior or Death by Suicide in the School Community

When the school community is impacted by suicidal behavior or a death by suicide, the district will confer with their crisis response teams and, when appropriate, confer with local community resources and professionals to identify and make available supports that may help the school community understand and process the behavior and/or death.

The crisis response team, the building administrator or his/her designee will determine appropriate procedures for informing the school community of a death by suicide and the supports that will be offered. Staff and students who need immediate attention following a death by suicide will be provided support and resources as determined necessary.

6. Suicide Prevention and Response Protocol Education for Staff

All district employees will receive information annually regarding this policy and the district's protocol for suicide awareness, prevention and response. The importance of suicide prevention, recognition of suicide protective and risk factors, strategies to strengthen school connectedness and building specific response procedures will be highlighted.

Such information shall include the following:

Reference: DESE Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Model Policy

1. Current trends in youth mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention and awareness
2. Strategies to encourage students to seek help for themselves and other students
3. Warning signs that indicate a student may be at risk of suicide
4. The impact of mental health issues and substance abuse
5. Communication to students regarding concerns about safety and that asking for help can save a life
6. Understanding limitations and boundaries for giving help and techniques to practice self-care
7. Identification of key school personnel who are comfortable, confident and competent to help students at risk of escalated distress and suicide

All district staff will participate in professional development regarding suicide awareness and prevention.

7. Suicide Prevention Education for Students

Starting no later than fifth grade, students will receive age appropriate information and instruction on suicide awareness and prevention. Information and instruction may be offered in health education, by the counseling staff or in other curricula as may be appropriate.

Student education will include the following:

1. Information about mental health, well-being and suicide prevention and awareness
2. Promotion of a climate that encourages peer referral and which emphasizes school connectedness
3. Recognition of the signs that they or peers are at risk for suicide
4. Identification of issues that may lead to suicide including depression, anxiety, anger, and drug/alcohol dependency
5. Directive to not make promises of confidence when they are concerned about peer suicide
6. Identification of a trusted adult on campus with whom students can discuss concerns about suicide

8. Publication of Policy

The district will notify employees, students and parents of this policy by posting the policy and related procedures and documents on the district's website and discussing this policy during employee training as detailed herein.

9. Teacher Assistance Programs

Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, all District teachers, principals, and certified educators may attend a teacher assistance program regarding suicide prevention or self-review of suicide prevention materials. Completion of either of these options will count as two contact hours of

professional development under §168.021. In addition, program completion counts as two hours of training for purposes of the Flatl-Cantor Act.

10. Student Identification Cards

At present, the District serves students in grades 7 to 12. The District may choose to issue student identification cards. Beginning on July 1, 2025, if the District is issuing student identification cards, these cards will have printed on either side the following:

1. The three digit code 988 that directs calls and routes text messages to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; and
2. The nonemergency number of the local police department; and
3. May have printed on either side of the card:
   a) The six-digit code that routes text messages to the Crisis Text line 741741; and
   b) The telephone number of the local suicide prevention hotline, if such hotline is available.

*****

September 2024, Copyright 2024 Missouri Consultants for Education, LLC

Reference: DESE Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Model Policy