

**SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN**

The School Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; to establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt ("postvention"); and to promote access to suicide awareness, prevention and postvention resources.

**A. District Suicide Prevention Plan and Biennial Review.** The District shall maintain a coordinated written District Suicide Prevention Plan (the "Plan") to include guidelines, protocols and procedures with the objectives of prevention, risk assessment, intervention and response to youth suicides and suicide attempts.

1. Specific Requirements for Plan Terms: The District Suicide Prevention Plan shall include terms relating to:
  1. Suicide prevention (risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, referrals);
  2. Response to in-or-out-of-school student suicides or suicide attempts (postvention, suicide contagion);
  3. Student education regarding safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, recognition of risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide; and help seeking strategies;
  4. Training of staff, designated volunteers, and contracted personnel on the issues of youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention and resources available within the school and community;
  5. Confidentiality considerations;
  6. Designation of any personnel, in addition to the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, to act as points of contact when students are believed to be at an elevated risk of suicide;
  7. Information regarding state and community resources for referral, crisis intervention, and other related information;
  8. Dissemination of the Plan or information about the Plan to students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers;

9. Promotion of cooperative efforts between the District and its schools and community suicide prevention program personnel;
  10. Such include such other provisions deemed appropriate to meet the objectives of this Policy (e.g., student handbook language, reporting processes, "postvention" strategies, memorial parameters, etc.).
2. Biennial Review: No less than once every two years, the Superintendent, in consultation with the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons with input and evidence from community health or suicide prevention organizations, and District health and guidance personnel, shall update the District Suicide Prevention Plan, and present the same to the Board for review. Such Plan updates shall be submitted to the Board in time for appropriate budget consideration.

#### **B. Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Liaisons.**

1. District Suicide Prevention Coordinator. The Director of Health and Wellness is designated as the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator, who, under the direction of the Superintendent shall be responsible for:
  1. developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with and coordination efforts between the District and community suicide prevention programs and personnel;
  2. annual updating of (i) State and community crisis or intervention referral information, and (ii) names and contact information of Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, for inclusion in student handbooks and on the District's website;
  3. developing - or assisting individual teachers with the development - of age appropriate student educational programming, such that all students receive information in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help;
  4. developing or assisting in the development of the annual staff training required under section C of this policy;
  5. Such other duties as referenced in this Policy or as assigned by the Superintendent.
2. Building Suicide Prevention Liaison. The school social worker or, in his/her absence, the building principal, shall be designated as the Building Suicide Prevention Liaison,

and shall serve as the in building point-of-contact person when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide. Employees who have reason to believe a student is at risk of suicide, or is exhibiting risk factors for suicide, shall report that information to the Building Liaison, who shall, immediately or as soon as possible, establish and implement a response plan with the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

**C. Annual Staff Training.** The Superintendent shall assure that beginning with the 2020-21 school year, all school building faculty and staff, designated volunteers, and any other personnel who have regular contact with students, including contracted personnel or third-party employees, receive at least two hours of training in suicide awareness and prevention. Such training may include such matters as youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, intervention, response procedures, referrals, and postvention and local resources.

**D. Dissemination.** Student handbooks and the District's website will be updated each year with the contact information for the Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention resources. The District Suicide Prevention Plan will be made available on the District's, and each school's respective websites.

**E. Student Identification Cards.** The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline shall be labeled on student identification cards and include the telephone number; National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988. Prior to the start of each school year, the Superintendent shall certify that the contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is accurate and up to date.

~~The Raymond School District recognizes that suicide is a complex issue that requires school family, and community resources to be harnessed for appropriate and timely help to be available to NH students in order to prevent suicide. This policy guides the Raymond School District in the development and implementation of a coordinated plan to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.~~

~~As outlined in 193 J:1, this coordinated plan includes:~~

- ~~a. Training for staff: 2 hours of annual training in suicide awareness and prevention for faculty, staff, contracted personnel, and designated volunteers. The training may include but not limited to: youth suicide factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post intervention, and resources available within the school and community. This training will be evidenced informed.~~
- ~~b. Educating students in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage resources and refer friends for help.~~
- ~~c. Identifying within the school, the person(s) who serve as the point of contact when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide.~~
- ~~d. Making referral, crisis intervention, and other related information, both within the school and community, available for students, parents, faculty, staff and school volunteers.~~
- ~~e. Promoting cooperative efforts between school districts, charter public schools, and community suicide prevention program personnel.~~

~~Raymond Schools will create a procedure JLDB-R that guides the implementation of this policy, and is reviewed annually, and revised as needed.~~

~~193-J:3 Immunity.~~

~~Nothing in this chapter shall create a private right of action against any school administrative unit, school district, public academy, chartered public school, the state, or any employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent thereof. A school administrative unit employee, school employee, chartered public school employee, public academy employee, regular school volunteer, pupil, parent, legal guardian, or employee of a company under contract to a school, school district, school administrative unit, or chartered public school, shall be immune from civil liability for conduct arising from or related to the implementation of, or failure to adequately implement, this chapter. 315:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.~~

Legal References:

RSA 193-J, Suicide Prevention Education

[RSA 193-J:2-a Suicide Prevention; Public School Identification Cards](#)

Adopted: June 3, 2020

Proposed Revision February 7, 2024