

Irving Independent School District

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES SUICIDE PREVENTION

SUICIDE THREAT

Services are to be provided by personnel trained in crisis intervention and suicide prevention to offer assistance to students in crisis. Every campus will have a counselor who has received training in suicide and crisis intervention. **No suicide threat shall be ignored.** A suicide threat is defined as any spoken, written, or behavioral indication of self-destructive tendencies with the intent of self-harm or taking one's own life. School personnel will take all threats seriously and will implement the following procedures:

1. Any person aware of a suicide threat by a student contacts the school counselor.
2. The counselor provides immediate crisis counseling and conducts a screening to assess the risk that the student will attempt suicide.
3. All dangerous substances and/or implements are removed from the student and the area.
4. The student is not left alone or returned to class unsupervised until an adult family member, preferably a guardian, has been notified and an intervention action plan agreed upon.
5. The counselor requests additional assistance from a school psychologist or from designated crisis intervention personnel if the student is determined to be at high risk to attempt suicide.
6. A parent, guardian, or adult relative is notified of the student's threat by the counselor or the crisis intervention personnel. No student is released from school prior to notification and consent of an adult family member, preferably a guardian.
7. The counselor reports the threat to the Parent and Student Services Department.
8. The counselor informs the building administrator of the crisis situation.
9. The counselor or designated crisis intervention personnel may not transport a suicidal student.

SUICIDE ATTEMPT

All attempted suicides will be treated initially as medical emergencies. A suicide attempt is defined as any life threatening behavior or gesture on the part of a student with the intent of self-harm or taking his or her own life. It is not left to the discretion of school personnel to determine the seriousness of the attempt. The management of cases involving attempted suicide will follow the following procedures:

1. Any person aware of a suicide attempt by a student contacts the school counselor.
2. If the student has ingested medication, chemical agents, or has incurred physical injury, the nurse is notified and follows first-aid care procedures.
3. The school counselor provides immediate crisis intervention counseling and requests the assistance from a school psychologist or designated crisis intervention personnel.
4. All dangerous substances and/or implements are removed immediately from the student and the area.
5. The student's parent, guardian, or adult relative is contacted immediately and the student is referred for medical treatment from a physician and/or further evaluation and treatment from a community mental health professional.
6. The student is not left alone or released from school prior to notification of the parent, guardian, or adult relative.
7. The counselor or designated crisis intervention personnel may not transport a suicidal student. Someone from the school is encouraged to accompany the family if the student is taken to a hospital.
8. The counselor reports the attempt to the Parent/Student Services Department.
9. When the student returns to school, professional clearance from the attending physician or community mental health professional is advised.
10. Upon the student's return to school following hospitalization, the counselor convenes a meeting with the student, parents or guardian, campus administrator, nurse, and other designated school personnel to make recommendations regarding supportive counseling and follow-up services.

SUICIDE COMPLETION

In order to help students, faculty, and support staff cope with the expected trauma and grief; to return the school to its normal routine and educational pursuits; and to prevent additional suicides, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Central Administration is notified by calling 972-261-5134 and notifying security of a Suicide Completion. District notifications will then be made according to the District Crisis Management Plan.
2. The Crisis Care Team Coordinator provides postvention strategies and consultation to the campus administrators.
3. Accurate information is disseminated to the staff.
4. Individual and group counseling are made available.
5. Media interviews are coordinated by the Director of Public Information.
6. Students may be excused to attend a funeral or memorial service with their parent's permission. No permanent memorial to the deceased by the school is allowed.