

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Mount Vernon Public Schools Board of Directors recognizes that suicidal behaviors are complex issues, a major cause of death among youth, and are to be taken seriously. While school staff may recognize potentially suicidal youth and the District may make an initial risk assessment, the District cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Instead, the Board directs school staff to refer students who exhibit suicidal behaviors to an appropriate service for further assessment and counseling.

The Board also recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and directs the Superintendent to establish appropriate programs for teachers, staff, and students that: a) identify risk factors for youth suicide; b) intervene with such youth, c) provide referral services; and e) offer training about how to provide proper assistance.

School staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat should take immediate interim steps to support the student and then promptly report the information to the building administrator or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family, and appropriate resource services.

The Superintendent will develop and implement procedures and a staff-training schedule to achieve the Board's goals and objectives.

Cross References:

Policy 3207	Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
Policy 2140	Guidance and Counseling

References:

RCW28A.410.043	School Counselor Certification
RCW28A.410.226	Training program on youth suicide screening -- Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors -- Adoption of standards.