

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { X }                      ACTION {    }                      CLOSED MEETING {    }

**SUBJECT:**                      SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – PRESENTATIONS/ INFORMATION

Mental Health First Aid & Suicide Prevention – Mrs. Hall

**BACKGROUND:**                      Youth suicide is a leading cause of death for our state’s young people, and it is important that school personnel know the responsibilities of Virginia educators in prevention, intervention, and response to suicide.

Administrative staff have met with Rockbridge Area Community Services (RACS) personnel to develop a professional development plan. An overview of planned activities will be provided.

**Professional Development Plan - DRAFT  
Youth Suicide Prevention and Mental Health First Aid  
1/27/2015**

**Review of Policy JHH – Suicide Prevention and Code of Virginia §22.1-272.1**

**January 27 – Administrative Staff Meeting with RACS personnel. Development of PD plan.**

**Faculty Meetings and Distribution of Brochures (*What Every Teacher Should Know About Preventing Suicide*) – Erica Orren, Prevention Services Program Manager, Rockbridge Area Community Services (RACS)**

**BCHS – February 11**

**MES – February 26**

**VES - February 19**

**Mental Health First Aid – Train the Trainer – February 2015 (5 days)**

**Preschool Workdays – August 2015**

**“safeTALK” Training for Instructional Staff (3 hours)**

**ASIST Intervention Skills Training for Selected Faculty/Staff (2 day intensive training)**

**Development of Resource List**

***Suicide Prevention Guidelines*, Virginia Board of Education, 2003 Revision.**

***Preventing Suicide – A Tool Kit for High Schools*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Center for Mental Health Services, 2012.**

***After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools*, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 2011.**

**LivingWorks – <https://www.livingworks.net/> (ASIST and safeTALK)**

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Duties of Teachers and Administrative Staff

Any person licensed as administrative or instructional personnel by the Board of Education and employed by the Bath County School Board who, in the scope of his employment, has reason to believe, as a result of direct communication from a student, that such student is at imminent risk of suicide, shall, as soon as practicable, contact at least one of such student's parents 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 such student.

### Contacting the Parent/Guardian

If the section below titled "Abuse or Neglect" does not apply, then the staff member shall call at least one of the student's parents/guardians. When contacting a parent/guardian, the staff member should:

1. Provide his/her name and position in the school;
2. Tell the parent/guardian that he has reason to believe, as a result of direct communication from the student, that the student is at imminent risk of suicide;
3. 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 or she is aware of the student's mental state;
6. Ask the parent/guardian whether he or 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; 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, this contact shall not be made with the parent. Instead, the person 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 Policy JHG and 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.

### 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 shall follow the school's crisis management plan.

#### 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.

#### 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 policy JHG.

#### 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 22, 2000

Revised: April 6, 2004; September 5, 2006; May 9, 2011

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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: JHG Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting  
EB School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency  
Response Plan

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§ 22.1-272.1. Responsibility to contact parent of student at imminent risk of suicide; notice to be given to social services if parental abuse or neglect; Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Health, to develop guidelines for parental contact.

A. Any person licensed as administrative or instructional personnel by the Board of Education and employed by a local school board who, in the scope of his employment, has reason to believe, as a result of direct communication from a student, that such student is at imminent risk of suicide, shall, as soon as practicable, contact at least one of such student's parents 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 such student. Such contact shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines required by subsection C.

B. If the student has indicated that the reason for being at imminent risk of suicide relates to parental abuse or neglect, this contact shall not be made with the parent. Instead, the person 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 § [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.

C. The Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Health, shall develop guidelines for making the contact required by subsection A. These guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, (i) criteria to assess the suicide risks of students, (ii) characteristics to identify potentially suicidal students, (iii) appropriate responses to students expressing suicidal intentions, (iv) available and appropriate community services for students expressing suicidal intentions, (v) suicide prevention strategies which may be implemented by local schools for students expressing suicidal intentions, (vi) criteria for notification of and discussions with parents of students expressing suicidal intentions, (vii) criteria for as-soon-as-practicable contact with the parents, (viii) appropriate sensitivity to religious beliefs, and (ix) legal requirements and criteria for notification of public service agencies, including, but not limited to, the local or state social services and mental health agencies. These guidelines may include case studies and problem-solving exercises and may be designed as materials for in-service training programs for licensed administrative and instructional personnel.

(1999, c. [425](#); 2009, cc. [813](#), [840](#).)