Subject: Suicide Prevention
Effective Date: TBD Upon Board Approval
Approved By: Board of Directors
Policy: 5024.1

The Governing Board of Vista Springs Charter School (VSCS) recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that an even greater amount of youth consider (17 percent of high school students) and attempt suicide (over 8 percent of high school students) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015).

The possibility of suicide and suicidal ideation requires vigilant attention from our school staff. As a result, we are ethically and legally responsible for providing an appropriate and timely response in preventing suicidal ideation, attempts, and deaths. VSCS acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which works to create a safe and nurturing culture that minimizes suicidal ideation in students.

Recognizing that it is the duty of the Vista Springs charter school to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its students, this policy aims to safeguard students and staff against suicide attempts, deaths and other trauma associated with suicide, including ensuring adequate supports for students, staff, and families affected by suicide attempts and loss. As it is known that the physical, behavioral and emotional health of students greatly impacts school attendance and educational success, this policy shall be paired with other practices that support the emotional and behavioral wellness of students.

In an attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent or Designee shall develop strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and post-intervention, and the identification of the mental health

challenges frequently associated with suicidal thinking and behavior. These strategies shall include professional development for all school personnel in all job categories who regularly interact with students or are in a position to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, including substitute teachers, volunteers, expanded learning staff and any other individuals in regular contact with students.

The Superintendent or Designee shall develop and implement preventive strategies and intervention procedures that include prevention, staff development, developmentally - appropriate programs, intervention, assessment and referral, and parent/ student notification.