



Subject: Suicide Prevention
Effective Date: August 14, 2017
Revised Date: February 8, 2021
Approved By: Board of Directors
Policy: 5024.1

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018). To align with AB 1767, which expands the current law of AB 2246, from the student population of 7th to 12th grade students, to now include all students in Kindergarten to 12th grade beginning the 2020-21 school year.

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. The charter school acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment that is sensitive to individual/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 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. The policy will also include additional support to students with disabilities, homelessness, foster care, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. 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 and delivered in a manner that is sensitive to young pupils.

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, 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, but not limited to, substitute teachers, volunteers, and expanded learning staff.

Local and community resources will be provided to identified individuals so they are aware of how to seek assistance.

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.