Subject: Suicide Prevention
Approved By: Board of Directors
Policy: 5024.1

SHASTA SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL
Effective Date:
Revised Date:

LIBERTY SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL
Effective Date:
Revised Date:

Springs Charter Schools recognize that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that school personnel who regularly interact with students are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. In an effort to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Superintendent or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing measures and strategies for use by the district, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders such as administrators, other staff,
parents/guardians, and students; school–employed mental health professionals such as school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses; suicide prevention experts such as local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations; law enforcement; and, in developing policy for grades K–6, the county mental health plan.

The Board shall ensure that measures and strategies for students in grades K–6 are age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students.

Such measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, school administrators, school counselors, and other district employees who interact with students as described in the Board Policy 5024.1 Suicide Prevention.

2. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.

3. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.

4. Encouragement for students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.

5. Crisis intervention procedures for addressing suicide threats or attempts.

6. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a student's suicide.

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of Elementary age students who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out–of–home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning
youth.

If a referral is made for mental health or related services for a student in grade K–6 who is a Medi–Cal beneficiary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate and consult with the county mental health plan.

School employees shall act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging district employees to diagnose or treat mental illness unless they are specifically licensed and employed to do so.

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years.

The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the district's website, in a prominent
location and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students.