

Life Source International Charter School
Student Suicide Prevention Policy

Scholars: Suicide Prevention

Life Source and its Board members recognizes 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 to 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 policy and strategies for suicide prevention and intervention, 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-8, the county mental health plan. (Education Code [215](#))

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. (Education Code [215](#))

Policy 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 counselors, and other employees who interact with students as described in the accompanying administrative regulation.
2. Instruction to students in problem-solving and coping skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being, as well instruction to recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs and suicidal intent to others. As a result of this instruction, students should know how to access school-based and community prevention and intervention resources and supports.
3. 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.
4. The provision of information to parents/guardians regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the school's prevention curriculum, the basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth crisis.

