

SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND POSTVENTION

[NOTE: Local Boards should tailor this policy to reflect the programs/activities in place in their school unit. MSMA recommends that any major changes in language be reviewed by the Board's legal counsel.]

The Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people in this country. In order to promote the safety, health and well-being of students, the school unit will provide students with appropriate information about suicide awareness/prevention as well as resources available to assist at-risk students within the school unit and from community/mental health organizations.

Suicide is a complex issue and school staff cannot be expected to make clinical assessments of students. However, the Board does expect any school staff member who has knowledge of a suicide threat or student in crisis to immediately report the matter to the building administrator/designee.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing suicide prevention, intervention and postvention procedures for inclusion in the school unit's crisis management plan **[OR: insert other title]**. The Board encourages the Superintendent to seek input from school administrators, other appropriate school staff, and appropriate resources outside the school unit in developing these procedures. All such procedures are subject to Board approval.

[Local schools units that provide specific staff training and/or parent/community education programs concerning suicide awareness/prevention may want to insert appropriate language concerning Board support of such programs.]

Cross Reference: **[School Unit Name]** Crisis Management Plan

Adopted: _____

PLEASE NOTE MSMA sample policies and other resource materials do not necessarily reflect official Association policy. They are not intended for verbatim replication. Sample policies should be used as a starting point for a board's policy development on specific topics. Rarely does one board's policy serve exactly to address the concerns and needs of all other school units. MSMA recommends a careful analysis of the need and purpose of any policy and a thorough consideration of the application and suitability to the individual school system.

MSMA sample policies and other resource materials may not be considered as legal advice and are not intended as a substitute for the advice of a board's own legal counsel.