

**STUDENT – SUICIDE, OTHER THREAT INTERVENTION
AND PREVENTION**

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The Picayune School District shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. The policies shall be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts, and shall, at a minimum address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. To assist districts in developing policies for student suicide prevention, the State Department of Education shall establish a model policy in consultation with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health for use by local school districts.

A. Suicide and Other Threat Intervention

It shall be the obligation of each staff member to report any student threat of potential harm to himself/herself, commit suicide, or cause injury to another individual immediately to his/her direct supervisor (principal). In the event that the building principal is not available, the report shall be made directly to the appropriate school counselor or social worker, who, will in a timely manner, inform the building principal.

The building supervisor shall then assign the school counselor or appropriate social worker to assess the student threat through interviews with the individual student making the claim, teacher(s), and other student witnesses as deemed appropriate.

If the assessment conducted by the school counselor/social worker reveals that the student is at-risk of possibly harming himself/herself or of potentially committing suicide, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The student's parent/legal guardian shall be notified by the counselor or social worker. In the event that a legal guardian/parent is not available, the counselor or social worker will be empowered to inform one of the student's emergency contacts listed on the Enrollment Card.
2. The parent/legal guardian shall be required to pick up any student from the school site who is clearly in imminent danger of engaging in self-harming, suicidal, or other harmful behaviors.
3. The counselor/social worker will inform the parent/guardian of available community services.
4. The counselor/social worker, under the advisement of the building supervisor, will report directly to the Department of Human Services cases wherein the parent/legal guardian appears to neglect the child's need for further services (threat of suicide, self-injurious behaviors).

5. In the event of a threat to harm another individual or a targeted group of individuals, it shall be the obligation of any school personnel, under the direction of the building supervisor, to notify a School Resource Officer.
6. Should the parent/legal guardian seek treatment for his/her child in a mental health facility, the school counselor/social worker will act as a liaison in providing follow up services upon notification and request.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the school counselor/social worker to document all actions pertaining to each case and to maintain confidentiality of student and family information.

B. Prevention Measures:

1. The Picayune School District Suicide Intervention and Prevention Committee will meet at a minimum annually to review current policies, procedures, and prevention methods.
2. The Picayune School District will continue quality anti-violence prevention measures and programs such as peer mediation, conflict resolution, bullying awareness and prevention, student mentoring, and group counseling on the topics of anger management and positive self-esteem building.

LEGAL REFERENCE: House Bill 263, Regular Session 2017

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