



Pacifica School District

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Preparing Students for an Evolving World

www.pacificasd.org

MEMORANDUM

Integrated Services and Human Resources

Meeting of

05/17/17

TO: Wendy S. Tukloff, Ed.D., Superintendent
For Board of Trustees

FROM: Ray Avila, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: BP/AR 5141.52 – Suicide Prevention
(First Reading/Discussion)

Background

Pacifica School District has a practice of using the California School Boards Association (CSBA) On-line Gamut service for Pacifica School District policies. The March 2017 Manual Maintenance included an update for Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.52 (Suicide Prevention). In addition, the San Mateo County Counsel, in collaboration with the San Mateo County Office of Education to address recent legislation (AB 2246) that requires districts to adopt a student suicide prevention policy before the 2017-2018 school year, provided additional language to the BP/AR to reflect local actions.

In support of the efforts to reduce youth suicide, and to help Districts prevent and respond to youth suicide, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and San Mateo County Health System created the **San Mateo County Schools Suicide Prevention Toolkit**, which will be available in its final form prior to the end of this month, if not sooner. (See attached Draft) The toolkit was developed through an extensive collaborative process involving community stakeholders, school mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts including staff from County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS). It outlines guidelines for identifying, intervening, and responding to suicidal and self-injurious students. It also offers best practices to school site crisis teams to be used in the aftermath of a student death by suicide.

The toolkit is divided into three sections.

1. The first section provides guidelines regarding the training and education of staff, formation of a crisis response team, signs of students at risk for suicide, student risk assessments, and responses to student self-injury, hospitalization, and suicide.
2. The second section provides important forms, including forms for use by mental health professionals and members of the school site crisis response team and/or administration to evaluate, respond to, and document a suicide risk assessment as well as forms documenting the release of a student to parents for psychiatric assessments and materials to provide to students and parents in the event of a suicide.

3. The final section of the toolkit contains the Return to School Information Packet that will help staff work with students and parents as a student transitions back to school after a suicide attempt or psychiatric hospitalization.

To support the use and access to this toolkit, SMCOE and BHRS is offering suicide prevention training and materials – including an informative Suicide Prevention Poster to select PSD staff including administrators, counselors and school psychologists. PSD will schedule training for the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year. The Suicide Prevention Toolkit is mentioned in the attached Board Policy.

PSD supports the County Counsel and SMCOE position of the importance placed on suicide prevention and recommended changes to BP/AR 5141.52. In order to attempt to prevent suicide and its impact on students and families, BP/AR 5141.52 (Suicide Prevention) will serve as a guide for district practice. This policy aligns with LCAP Goal 3 in relation to ensuring a positive and safe school climate.

It is recommended for the Board to adopt the attached Board Policy and Administrative Regulation.