

Suicide Risk Intervention Guidelines

Student identified



Referred to school-based mental health professional



Administrator notified



Parent contacted



Referral and/or resources provided



Follow up

Parent contact should always be made, even in cases in which a referral is made for suspicion of suicidal ideation or behavior and the individual denies they are suicidal.

If a parent is unavailable and the student endorses suicidal ideation or behavior, use these resources and don't leave the student alone: Contact a school resource officer, call Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) at 801-587-3000, call District support using the numbers below, or call 911.

School Personnel Guidelines for Determining Suicide Risk

- Build rapport, ask questions, listen carefully, and get appropriate details.
- Remember that your work with students in assessing suicide risk is NOT a diagnosis for mental illness nor is it a formal assessment of suicide risk.
- Use the C-SSRS screener as a resource and remember that it is not a formal assessment.
- Take the time to explore risk factors (i.e. recent loss, drug/alcohol use, previous attempts, recent breakup) AND protective factors (i.e. social support, coping skills, reasons for living, etc.).
- **ALWAYS NOTIFY PARENTS:** Confidentiality pales in comparison to a child's death. Calling parents is an obligation.
- Don't give parents a false sense of security by saying: "I'm not worried" or by telling them that you believe their child is "low," "mild," or even "moderate" risk – a short assessment is not enough to evaluate risk level. Give the information and provide resources for parents.
- Create a safety plan for students.
- Stress the importance of the parents' responsibility for monitoring their child's safety and provide resources for mental health supports in the community.
- Document parent contact.
- Involve a colleague.
- Always follow up with students who have been suicidal and their parents.

Resources & People to call for support in risk assessment and intervention

- Fulvia Franco - 801-567-8930, cell - 801-230-6254
- McKinley Withers - 801-567-8245, cell - 801-448-1404
- Stacey Worthen - 801-567-8309, cell - 801-884-9820

Available Resources

- Critical Incident Report
- Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS) – Screener with Triage Points & Checklist
- Student Safety Plan
- Mental health and crisis resources handout
- Additional resources can be found at wellness.jordandistrict.org/educators



wellness.jordandistrict.org