School-based Prevention Services: Suicidal Ideation & Self Harm Best Practices

If a student reports they are suicidal or self injuring:

Teacher/counselor/other staff member should report this to the counselor AND principal **immediately**. It **MUST** be reported as soon as possible and **BEFORE** the student leaves campus for any reason.

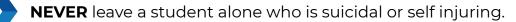


If the student needs **medical attention**, they should be referred to the nurse and/or emergency medical responders immediately.



A counselor or other school official should **ask the student** if they are self harming and/or suicidal. It is very important that you **ask** the question: "Are you thinking about killing yourself?" If they are suicidal, ask them if they have a **plan**. Students who have a plan to kill themselves are at greater **risk**.

A <u>Safety Threat Assessment Form</u> may be used to determine the imminent warning signs that exist with the student.



Parents/guardians should be **contacted** as soon as possible.

Emergency forms should always be **signed by parents/guardians**. There are few if any exceptions.

If parents cannot be reached or if parents refuse to take the student to receive a mental health evaluation, **police should then be contacted**. Police will take the student into protective custody if they find that their safety is a concern.



The **Emergency Notification of Student in Crisis Form** should be completed. The report should NEVER go into the cumulative folder, but a private file in the counselor's office. A copy may also be kept in a secured district office.



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- If a school official is **concerned about the safety of a student during non-school hours**, they should contact the family of the child and/or the police immediately. This cannot wait until the next day. The staff member should then contact the site principal and inform them they have contacted police for a welfare check.
- A district official should be notified as soon as possible. If a student reports that someone he/she knows is suicidal or self injuring: A teacher/counselor/other staff member should report this to the principal and counselor immediately. This cannot wait until the next day, or even the next hour. The administrator/counselor should find the student who is in danger and should supervise them immediately.
 - All forms need to be sent to a district administrator within 24 hours of the incident.



