

Suicide Prevention

The District will adhere to the following guidelines in the identification of students who may be undergoing a crisis situation:

1. A school counselor's role is important to the crisis team for preventing suicide.
2. Faculty will be briefed on the warning signs of suicide and/or depression. The warning signs will be reviewed intermittently throughout the year.
3. In the event that a student threatens suicide, the school counselor will:
 - a. Isolate student from peers.
 - b. Talk with student and assess the seriousness of the threat.
 - c. Ask directly if the student has entertained thoughts of suicide.
 - d. Not leave the student alone.
 - e. Notify personnel.
 - f. Contact parent.
 - g. Continue to counsel the student.
 - h. Give the student and parent resource numbers.
 - i. Ask the student to sign a "contract for safety." If he or she refuses, document the response.
 - j. Provide parents with other community resources for counseling.
 - k. Work with parents, students, administrators, and teachers to monitor the student.
 - l. Notify appropriate MHMR office.
 - (1) Parker County: 800-772-5987
 - (2) Tarrant County: 817-335-3022
 - (3) Wise County: 800-621-8504
4. The school counselor will place a self-harm/notification documentation form in a separate file in the school counselor's office or principal's office. It will be released in a life-endangering situation but only by the principal or by verbal permission of the principal to the school counselor.

5. The Community in Schools (CIS) social workers and the elementary social worker will assist school counselors, if necessary, in providing additional support and social services to prevent a possible suicide.

The director of human resources will serve as the District's contact person.

**Procedures for
Behavior Concerns**

The behavior and mental health counselor as well as the special education behavior specialists are resources for ongoing behavior concerns with individual students. The Campus Crisis Intervention Team, which must include the campus administrators, school counselor, nurse, and at least one general education teacher and one special education teacher, will be the primary resource for behavior. The team will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Exhaust all campus resources first both in the classroom and administratively.
- Involve the campus counselor in behavior interventions for students both in a crisis situation and in ongoing behavior challenges with individual students.
- After exhausting all campus resources, a referral may be made to the behavior and mental health counselor. Each school counselor has a referral form that should be completed and forwarded to the behavior and mental health counselor.
- The behavior and mental health counselor will observe the student and conference with the campus staff (classroom teacher, school counselor, and campus administration) regarding recommendations for behavior interventions.
- After completing this step, the behavior and mental health counselor will notify the director of special services regarding the need for further intervention. Together they will determine the next step, such as utilizing the special education behavior specialists for more intensive interventions and/or proceeding with a referral for a special education evaluation.
- After conferring with the behavior and mental health counselor, the director of special services will contact the campus administration and the behavior specialist assigned to the campus to discuss the next step.