

STUDENT WELFARE
STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS/COUNSELING

FFE
(LOCAL)

STUDENT SUPPORT
SERVICES

The District offers a continuum of student services through an integrated and coordinated system comprised of several separate departments and disciplines focused on developing academically, mentally, and physically healthy students as well as eliminating social, emotional, behavioral, and health barriers to learning.

Coordination of these services shall be provided through the central administration office under the direction of the administrator of student support services and the administrator of instructional support services and shall include:

1. Academic support (response to intervention) [see EHAA(REGULATION)].
2. Counseling and guidance services.
3. Health services.
4. Psychological and social services.
5. Homeless education.
6. Youth and family centers.
7. Drug and alcohol prevention.
8. Campus crisis response and support services.
9. Child abuse and domestic violence prevention.
10. Student Support Teams.

STUDENT SUPPORT
TEAM (SST)

The District shall provide a structured program of assistance to students experiencing academic, physical, emotional, behavioral, social, medical, familial, or chemical use problems to the extent that their academic or extracurricular performance is being adversely affected. To meet these students' needs, the District shall establish a campus-based team to systematically and professionally respond to student problems as they are manifested in school.

The Student Support Team (SST) is designed to provide at-risk students with academic and/or behavioral interventions/strategies in the regular setting that reduce and/or eliminate the area(s) of concern that adversely affects the students' ability to learn. [See EHAA(REGULATION)]

CAMPUS-BASED

The principal shall form and convene an SST Intervention Meeting (SST-IM) that shall:

1. Meet to analyze data and discuss information about the student to identify appropriate interventions.

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2. Refer a student from Tier III Intervention to Specialized Services, which may include counseling and guidance services, health services, psychological and social services, homeless education, youth and family services, drug and alcohol prevention, campus crisis response and support services, or child abuse and domestic violence prevention. [See EHAA(REGULATION)]
3. Discuss the referral to counseling of students who experience bullying and physical, emotional behavioral, social, medical, familial, or chemical use problems to the extent that their academic or extracurricular performance is adversely affected.
4. Respond to the request for specialized services made by a parent, the principal, or a teacher.
5. Develop an intervention plan to address a student who does not qualify or is being exited from a specialized service.
6. Maintain a record of services that includes original copies of referral forms, data forms, team recommendations and intervention plans, and an indication of resolution. SST service records are transferred within the District according to the procedures described for student records transfers and kept for a period of five years after graduation.

The operation of the SST shall not alter or replace existing policies or administrative procedures.

COMPOSITION

The SST is a decision-making team that is convened to discuss at-risk students with academic and/or behavioral interventions in the general education setting. The SST should be led by a campus administrator (principal or assistant principal) and consist of the campus instructional coach(es) and classroom teacher(s), and based on the area of concern, the campus counselor (for social/emotional and behavioral needs), nurse (for health and physical needs), or school psychologist or social worker (for psychological, social, and behavioral needs).

SUICIDE THREAT

The various student services components shall provide personnel trained in crisis intervention and suicide prevention to offer assistance to local school building staff for students in crisis. Every campus shall have a designated primary caregiver who has received approved training in suicide and crisis intervention. No suicide threat shall be ignored. A suicide threat is defined as any spoken, written, or behavioral indication of self-destructive tendencies with the intent of taking one's own life. School personnel shall take all threats seriously and shall implement the following procedures:

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1. Any person on the local campus aware of a suicide threat on the part of a student shall contact the primary caregiver designated in his or her building.
2. The primary caregiver shall provide immediate crisis counseling and may, upon receipt of written consent from the parent or legal guardian, complete a suicide risk assessment to assess the risk that the student will attempt suicide. The parent or legal guardian has the right to review the screening instrument prior to its administration and may withhold consent. Such refusal to consent shall not be used to deny any right or benefit to which the student is otherwise entitled. FL(LEGAL) *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. § 1232(g)*. The suicide risk assessment may not be used as a basis for disciplinary action. The refusal to consent to a suicide risk assessment may not be used as a basis for disciplinary action.
3. All dangerous substances and/or implements shall be removed immediately from the student and the area.
4. The student shall not be left alone or returned to class unsupervised until an adult family member, preferably a guardian, has been notified and an intervention plan agreed upon.
5. The primary caregiver shall inform the building administrator of the crisis situation.
6. The primary caregiver shall report the threat to the psychological services department.
7. The primary caregiver shall request services of specialized suicide and crisis personnel through the psychological services department if the student is determined to be at high risk to attempt suicide.
8. A parent, guardian, or relative shall be notified of the student's threat by the primary caregiver and/or specialized suicide and crisis intervention personnel. No student shall be released from school prior to notification and consent of an adult family member, preferably a guardian.
9. The primary caregiver or specialized suicide and crisis intervention personnel may not transport a suicidal student to a hospital or home but may accompany a parent who assumes responsibility for transportation.

SUICIDE ATTEMPT

All attempted suicides shall be treated initially as medical emergencies. A suicide attempt is defined as any life-threatening behavior or gesture on the part of a student with the intent of taking

his or her own life. It is not left to the discretion of school personnel to determine the seriousness of the attempt. The management of cases involving attempted suicide shall follow the procedures for threatened suicide and include the following:

1. The student's parent, guardian, or relative shall be contacted immediately, and the principal or designee shall require that the student receive medical treatment from a physician and/or counseling from a community mental health professional.
2. If the student has ingested medication, chemical agents, or has incurred physical injury, the emergency procedure described in the FFA(REGULATION) shall be followed.
3. The department of psychological services shall be notified of all suicide attempts. The primary caregiver shall be assisted by personnel specialized in suicide and crisis intervention.
4. When the student returns to school, professional clearance from the attending physician or community mental health professional must be provided to the principal, in consultation with health services central administration.
5. Upon the student's return to school, the primary caregiver shall convene a meeting with the parent or guardian, campus administrator, nurse, and a member of the crisis team to make recommendations regarding supportive counseling and follow-up services.

SUICIDE COMPLETION When school personnel become aware of a completed suicide by a student or faculty member in their building, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The department of psychological services shall be notified.
2. The building administrator shall consult with the District crisis specialist regarding communication with the media and dissemination of information to students, faculty, and parents.
3. The crisis team shall provide prevention strategies for students and faculty.

THREATS OF VIOLENCE All threats of violence must be reported to the principal by students and school personnel to ensure safety. All threats shall be taken seriously. When a student makes a threat, the school principal must determine whether it is a terroristic threat or a threat of a less serious nature. [See also Student Code of Conduct]

TERRORISTIC THREAT If the principal suspects that a student has made or engaged in a terroristic threat, the principal shall call the police and the parent. Only the police can determine if a terroristic threat has been made.

Texas Penal Code Section 22.07 defines a terroristic threat as the threat to commit any offense involving violence to any person or property with intent to place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury or prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building, room, place of assembly, place of employment, aircraft, automobile, or other mode of transportation.

THREAT

If the principal determines that the threat is of a less serious or indeterminate nature, the principal shall call the parent or guardian.

VIOLENCE RISK
ASSESSMENT

If a threat of violence has been made, the primary caregiver, usually a counselor, shall, upon receipt of written consent from the parent or legal guardian, complete a threat of violence risk assessment. The parent or legal guardian has the right to review the screening instrument prior to its administration and may withhold consent. Such refusal to consent shall not be used to deny any right or benefit to which the student is otherwise entitled.

FL(LLEGAL) *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. § 1232(g).*

The caregiver shall, as follows:

1. For threats assessed as high-risk, the caregiver shall request assistance from psychological services to determine the need for additional services.
2. For threats assessed as low to medium, the primary caregiver:
 - a. Shall develop an action plan and confer with the parent.
 - b. May also obtain consultation from psychological services as needed.

BEHAVIOR REPORT
FORM

In addition to the violence risk assessment, a behavior report form shall be completed. Copies of these forms shall be placed in the counselor's file and shall be sent to psychological services. The violence risk assessment may not be used as a basis for disciplinary action. The refusal to consent to a violence risk assessment may not be used as a basis for disciplinary action.

If the police charge the student with making a terroristic threat or other offense, the student may be taken into police custody. State law requires mandatory removal of the student to an off-campus disciplinary alternative education placement.

Regardless of the level of risk, no student shall be left alone, returned to class unsupervised, or released from school until a parent or guardian has been notified and an intervention plan agreed upon.

Student access to all dangerous implements should be removed.

Regardless of the level of risk, all students making threats shall receive follow-up through the local campus SST.