



## **Chico Unified School District**

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999  
(530) 891-3000

**Board Policy:**

**#5141.52**

**Section: 5000**

**Students**

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### **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Governing Board recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth, that prevention is a collective effort that requires stakeholder engagement, and that school personnel who regularly interact with students are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. In an effort to reduce suicidal behavior, its impact on students and families, and other associated trauma, the Superintendent or designee shall develop measures, strategies, practices, and supports for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

In developing and updating district policy and procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, the Superintendent or designee may consult with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts. If the policy will affect K-6 students, the county mental health plan may also be consulted. (Education Code 215).

Measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention for teachers, and all staff members, including interns and substitutes.
2. Instruction to students in problem-solving, coping, and resiliency skills to promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being, help-seeking strategies and resources; and instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others.
3. Methods for promoting a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school and that is characterized by caring staff and harmonious relationships among students.
4. The review of materials and resources used in awareness efforts and communications to ensure they align with best practices for safe and effective messaging about suicide.
5. The provision of information to parents/guardians and caregivers regarding risk and protective factors, warning signs of suicide, the severity of the suicide problem among youth, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, the importance of communicating with appropriate staff if suicide risk is present or suspected, access to suicide prevention training, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.
6. Encouragement for students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.
7. Crisis intervention protocols for addressing suicide threats or attempts.
8. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a suicide.
9. Establishment of district and/or school-site crisis intervention team(s) to ensure the proper implementation and review of district practices related to the emotional and behavioral wellness of students, including, but not limited to, the oversight of mental health and suicide prevention training, collaboration with community mental health organizations, identification of resources and organizations that provide evidence-based treatment, and collaboration to build community response, and compliance with Education Code 215

Policy Adopted: 10/9/08; 05/03/17; 10/02/19; 03/04/20; 02/03/21; 06/29/22; 01/21/26



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As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with exceptional needs, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. (Education Code 215)

The Board shall ensure that suicide prevention measures and strategies for students in grades K-6 are age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. (Education Code 215)

If a referral is made for mental health or related services for a student in grade K-6 who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate and consult with the county mental health plan. (Education Code 215)

District employees shall act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging district employees to diagnose or treat mental illness unless they are specifically licensed and employed to do so. (Education Code 215)

The Board shall review, and update as necessary, this policy at least every five years. The Board may, at its discretion, review the policy more frequently. (Education Code 215)

The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the district's website, in a prominent location and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 234.6)

**Policy Reference Disclaimer:** *These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
Ed. Code 215	<u><a href="#">Suicide prevention policies</a></u>
Ed. Code 215.5	<u><a href="#">Student identification cards; inclusion of safety hotlines</a></u>
Ed. Code 216	<u><a href="#">Suicide prevention online training programs</a></u>
Ed. Code 218.3	<u><a href="#">Training curriculum to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and questioning students</a></u>
Ed. Code 234.6	<u><a href="#">Bullying and harassment prevention information</a></u>
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5	<u><a href="#">School safety plans</a></u>
Ed. Code 49060-49079	<u><a href="#">Student records</a></u>
Ed. Code 49428.15	<u><a href="#">Identification of evidence-based and evidence-informed training programs for schools to address youth behavioral health</a></u>
Ed. Code 49428.2	<u><a href="#">Referral protocols for addressing student behavioral health concerns in grades 7-12; certification of youth behavioral health training for employees</a></u>
Ed. Code 49428.5	<u><a href="#">Student mental health poster</a></u>

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### State

Ed. Code 49429

### Description

Telehealth technology in schools

Ed. Code 49602

Counseling and confidentiality of student information

Ed. Code 49604

Suicide prevention training for school counselors

Gov. Code 810-996.6

Government Claims Act

Pen. Code 11164-11174.3

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

W&I Code 5698

System of care for children and youth with serious emotional disturbance

W&I Code 5850-5886

Children's Mental Health Services Act

### Federal

42 USC 290bb-33

### Description

Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2021

### Management Resources

California Department of  
Education Publication

### Description

Model Youth Suicide Prevention Policy for Local Educational Agencies that Serve Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade Students, February 2023

California Department of  
Education Publication

Health Education Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, May 2019

California Department of  
Education Publication

Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008

CALSCHLS Publication

California School Staff Survey (CSSS)

CALSCHLS Publication

California School Parent Survey (CSPS)

CALSCHLS Publication

California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)

CDC and Prevention  
Publication

School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth, 2009

Court Decision

Corales v. Bennett (Ontario-Montclair School District) (2009) 567 F.3d 554

Each Mind Matters  
Publication

Making Headlines: Guide to Engaging the Media in Suicide Prevention in California, 2012

Heard Alliance Publication

K-12 Toolkit for Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention, 2017

Mental Health Svcs  
Oversight & Accountability  
Pub

Accelerating Transformational Change: Strategic Plan for 2024-2027

Mental Health Svcs  
Oversight & Accountability  
Pub

Striving for Zero: California's Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention 2020-2025

Nat'l Assoc. of School  
Psychologists Publication

Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administrators and Crisis Teams, 2015

Nat's Assoc. of School  
Psychologists Publication

Conducting a Virtual Suicide Assessment Checklist



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### Management Resources

### Description

Nat's Assoc. of School  
Psychologists Publication

[Comprehensive School Suicide Prevention in a Time of Distance Learning, 2020](#)

Suicide Prevention Resource  
Center Publication

[After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools, 2nd Edition, 2018](#)

U.S. Dept. of Health &  
Human Services Publication

[Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools, 2012](#)

U.S. Dept. of Health &  
Human Services Publication

[National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, rev. 2012](#)

USDOE Ofc for Civil Rights,  
USDOJ Civil Rights Pub

[Supporting and Protecting the Rights of Students at Risk of Self-Harm in the Era of COVID-19, October 2021](#)

Website

[California Department of Public Health, Office of Suicide Prevention](#)

Website

[Mental Health Evaluation, Training, Research, and Innovation Center for Schools \(METRICS\)](#)

Website

[CalHOPE Schools Initiative](#)

Website

[California Surgeon General, Safe Spaces: Trauma-Informed Training](#)

Website

[Schoolsafety.gov](#)

Website

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

Website

[Suicide Prevention Messaging](#)

Website

[National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#)

Website

[Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission](#)

Website

[HEARD Alliance](#)

Website

[Each Mind Matters: California's Mental Health Movement](#)

Website

[Crisis Text Line](#)

Website

[California School Climate, Health, and Learning Surveys \(CaSCHLS\)](#)

Website

[California Mental Health Services Authority](#)

Website

[Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

Website

[Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)

Website

[National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)

Website

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)

Website

[Trevor Project](#)

Website

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

Website

[American Association of Suicidology](#)

Website

[American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)

Website

[American Psychological Association](#)

Website

[California Department of Education, Mental Health](#)

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### Management Resources

Website	<a href="#"><u>California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health Services</u></a>
Website	<a href="#"><u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health</u></a>
Website	<a href="#"><u>National Association of School Psychologists</u></a>
Website	<a href="#"><u>National Institute for Mental Health</u></a>
Website	<a href="#"><u>American School Counselor Association</u></a>

### Cross References

Code	Description
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
1112	Media Relations
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1240	Volunteer Assistance
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
3515	Campus Security
4112.21	Interns
4121	Temporary/Substitute Personnel
4127	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4131	Staff Development
4227	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4231	Staff Development
4327	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4331	Staff Development
5125	Student Records
5131	Conduct
5131.2	Bullying
5131.6	Alcohol And Other Drugs
5131.8	Mobile Communication Devices
5137	Positive School Climate
5138	Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation
5141	Health Care And Emergencies
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.4	Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting
5141.5	Mental Health



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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
5141.6	<i>School Health Services</i>
5142	<i>Safety</i>
5145.3	<i>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</i>
5145.7	<i>Sexual Harassment</i>
5145.71	<i>Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures</i>
5145.9	<i>Hate-Motivated Behavior</i>
5148	<i>Child Care And Development</i>
5148.2	<i>Before/After School Programs</i>
6142.8	<i>Comprehensive Health Education</i>
6145.2	<i>Athletic Competition</i>
6145.8	<i>Assemblies And Special Events</i>
6164.2	<i>Guidance/Counseling Services</i>
6164.5	<i>Student Success Teams</i>