

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY (566) (BSD 3320)

Mountain Home School District is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents and others is a priority. Schools cannot ignore any credible threat of suicide.

Annual Staff Training on prevention, intervention, postvention will take place per Idaho Code.

The Suicide Risk Assessment Process:

When a credible threat of suicide is discovered by any District personnel, the building principal or designee may initiate the suicide prevention procedures, which includes:

- Contacting the legal parent or guardian
- Complete a Suicide Risk Assessment
- Ensure that the student is not left unattended through the process, or allowed to leave district premises unaccompanied by an adult
- A Self-Care Plan may be considered for use
- Contact parent/guardian if Suicide Risk Assessment is completed and resources will be given as appropriate

A credible threat of suicide may include:

- A student has directly or indirectly expressed suicidal thoughts, either verbally through writings, drawings and or social media
- A student is making statements about feeling hopeless, helpless or worthless
- A third party indicates credible information regarding suicidal thoughts, actions, etc.

Definitions:

Suicide Risk Assessment: A tool used to measure an individual’s potential for a suicide attempt or completion. It measures intentionality, access to means and motivation. The assessment looks specifically at-risk factors, protective factors and warning signs, as recommended by American Mental Health Counselors Association. The Mountain Home School District uses an assessment tool that is an adaptation of the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)

Self-Care Plan: A self-care plan is a tool that is designed to meet the needs of each individual and includes providing resources, soothing activities for the individual, identifies people who support the individual and will be allies, possible counseling support, restricts access to means, positive behavior strategies and what to do in a crisis.



Legal Reference:

Idaho Code Sections

33-136 – Suicide Prevention in Schools

33-512(4) – Governance of Schools

33-512B – Suicidal Tendencies – Duty to Warn

33-1612 – Thorough System of Public Schools

IDAPA 08.02.02.076.10(c) – Principle IX – Duty to Report – Duty to Warn

IDAPA 08.02.03.160 – Safe Environment and Discipline

Stoddart v. Pocatello School Dist. #25, 149 Idaho 679, 239 P.3d 784 (Idaho 2010)

Brooks v. Logan, 127 Idaho 484, 903 P.2d 73 (Idaho 1995)

Carrier v. Lake Pend Orielle School Dist., 142 Idaho 804, 134 P.3d 655 (Idaho 2006)

ADOPTED: MHSD 566 December 19, 2017

Revised: December 18, 2018 Reviewed: November 17, 2020 Revised (BSD): May 17, 2022