

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2019-2020 STUDENT SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Always take signs of suicidal feelings, thoughts, behaviors, or plans very seriously. Potential signs may include verbal statements, written content, artistic expressions, social media postings, etc.

Role of all district staff

1. Any staff who are concerned that a student is exhibiting a potential suicide risk and/or self-injury must immediately contact the school administrator or designee. If suicide risk is active and immediate, follow school protocols for calling 911.
 - a. If the student is exhibiting imminent danger to self or others, the student should be immediately transported to a hospital or mental health treatment center by a school resource officer, local law enforcement, or parent/caregiver.
2. Staff must keep student under **constant** adult supervision until suicide risk assessment has been completed. Staff will not release a student exhibiting potential suicide risk without a suicide risk assessment and/or consultation with a trained district employed mental health professional.
3. The school administrator or designee shall immediately contact a district employed mental health professional (i.e. school counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker) that is certified in SCUSD-approved suicide assessment tools and is assigned to the school site. **Only district employed mental health professionals** trained in the district approved suicide risk assessment tool can complete a suicide risk assessment.
4. If no certified professional is available at the school site, the principal or designee will contact the Student Support & Health Services Staff (**in the order listed below**) to identify someone to complete the assessment:
 - Nichole Wofford, **Connect Center/ Student Support & Health Services**: 643-2354
 - Theresa Tavianini, **Connect Center/Student Support & Health Services**: 643-2356
 - Jacqueline Rodriguez, **Student Support & Health Services**: 752-3353(cell-call or text)
 - Victoria Flores, **Student Support & Health Services**: 643-9144, 752-3643(cell-call or text)
5. In the event that a parent/guardian/adult caregiver wants to remove the student prior to completion of an assessment, or if the parent/guardian/adult caregiver refuses to take the student for necessary follow-up care at an emergency room or mental health treatment center, staff must report the removal/refusal to the school administrator or designee and assess whether a referral to child protective services and/or law enforcement is warranted.
6. Staff will maintain confidentiality of the student as appropriate prior to, during, and after suicide risk assessment is completed. Information regarding student mental health shall only be shared as is necessary for the safety of the student.

Role of SCUSD Mental Health Professional

1. Upon notification that a student was identified as being at risk of suicide as described above, district employed mental health professionals must complete and document all parts of a suicide risk assessment, which include:
 - a. Administration of the district approved suicide risk assessment tool
 - b. Safety Plan
 - c. Disposition Summary
 - d. Document actions taken per assigned department's policies and procedures.
2. If the student is deemed to be at risk of suicide or self-injury, the suicide assessment professional will contact the parent/guardian (if safe) and school administrator to discuss the situation and develop a plan to ensure the student's safety. Both the student and parent/guardian/caregiver will at a minimum be provided with the following information:
 - Resources for counseling and mental health services
 - Local suicide prevention hotline number: (916) 368-3111 or (800) 273-8255
 - Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic: (916) 520-2460; 2130 Stockton Blvd, Ste 300
 - Sacramento County Intake Stabilization Unit (formerly known as MERT): (916) 875-1000
 - Additional resources and follow-up as appropriate
3. No disclosure shall be made to the student's parent/guardian/caregiver when there is reasonable cause to believe that the disclosure would result in a clear and present danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the student. In the case of no disclosure to parent/guardian/caregiver, staff should consult with another certified district employed mental health professional, and must report safety/welfare concerns to child protective services and/or law enforcement. Documentation of this decision should be made on the suicide risk assessment disposition summary.
4. If the student is assessed to be at imminent risk of suicide or self-injury, the certified district employed mental health professional is to remain with the student, ensuring safety until an appropriate disposition plan can be developed that includes the provision of adequate supervision.
5. For all students assessed for suicide risk or risk of self-harm, regardless of identified risk level, the suicide assessment professional should make contact with the student's parent/guardian after the assessment to inform them of the assessment and safety plan for the student, when necessary (e.g. sent to County Intake Stabilization Unit, to ER, connected to therapist, returned to class, and/or completed a safety plan, etc.)
6. To maintain student confidentiality, the Suicide Risk Assessment Tool, Safety Plan and Disposition Summary Brief must be hand-delivered or sent by intra-district mail in a sealed envelope to
Box 708 - Student Support and Health Services, Serna Center.

