

CHESTER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT 24

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: SUICIDE AWARENESS,
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

ADOPTED: JULY 15, 2015

REVISED: MARCH 20, 2019

<p>1. Purpose SC 1526 Pol. 103.1, 248, 249, 806</p> <p>2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 12.12 Pol. 207, 216, 236</p> <p>3. Definition</p> <p>4. Guidelines</p> <p>SC 1526</p> <p>SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">809. SUICIDE AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE</p> <p>The Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students attending Intermediate Unit programs and the school community. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide a comprehensive program designed to promote mental and behavioral health and prevent suicide. [1][2][3][4][5].</p> <p>The Board directs the Intermediate Unit to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; to establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide attempt or suicide death; and to promote access to suicide awareness and prevention resources. [1][2][3][4][5]</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit shall notify employees, students and parents/guardians of this policy and shall post the policy on the Intermediate Unit’s website. [1]</p> <p>Mental and behavioral health – the promotion of emotional health; the prevention of mental illnesses and substance use disorders; and treatment and services for substance abuse, addiction, substance use disorders, mental illnesses and/or mental disorders.</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit shall utilize a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention which integrates school and community-based supports.</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit shall notify Intermediate Unit employees, students and parents/guardians of this policy and shall post the policy on the Intermediate Unit’s website.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION</p> <p><u>Protocols for Administration of Student Education</u></p> <p>Students shall receive age-appropriate education on the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs, as well as help-seeking strategies for self or others including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.</p>
--	--

<p>SC 1526 Pol. 333</p>	<p>Lessons shall contain information on comprehensive health and wellness, including emotional, behavioral and social skills development.</p> <p><u>Protocols for Administration of Employee Education</u></p> <p>All Intermediate Unit employees, including but not limited to administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, coaches, bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers, shall receive information about risk factors, warning signs, response procedures, referrals, and resources regarding youth suicide awareness and prevention.</p> <p>As part of the Intermediate Unit’s professional development plan, professional educators in school buildings serving students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) shall participate in a minimum of four (4) hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training every five (5) years.</p> <p>Additional professional development in suicide risk screening and/or assessment and crisis intervention shall be provided to specialized staff, and school mental and behavioral health professionals such as school crisis response/intervention team members, designated administrators, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and school nurses.</p> <p><u>Resources for Parents/Guardians</u></p> <p>The Intermediate Unit may provide parents/guardians with resources including, but not limited to, health promotion and suicide risk, including characteristics and warning signs; and information about local mental and behavioral health resources.</p>
<p>SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">METHODS OF PREVENTION</p> <p>The methods of prevention utilized by the Intermediate Unit include, but are not limited to, early identification and support for students at risk; education for students, staff and parents/guardians; and delegation of responsibility for planning and coordination of suicide prevention efforts.</p> <p>In support of the Intermediate Unit’s suicide prevention mission, information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student’s parents/guardians, the building administrator or program supervisor, or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or any other person is clearly in jeopardy. [7][8][9][10]</p> <p><u>Suicide Prevention Coordinators</u></p> <p><i>Intermediate Unit Level –</i></p> <p>An Intermediate Unit level suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the</p>

	<p>Executive Director. This may be an existing Intermediate Unit employee. The Intermediate Unit suicide prevention coordinator shall be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy.</p> <p><i>Program Level –</i></p> <p>Each program supervisor or building principal shall designate a school suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in each school for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation. This may be an existing employee.</p> <p><u>Early Identification Procedures</u></p> <p>Early identification of individuals with one (1) or more suicidal risk factors or of individuals exhibiting warning signs, is crucial to the Intermediate Unit’s suicide prevention efforts. To promote awareness, Intermediate Unit employees, students and parents/guardians should be educated about suicidal risk factors and warning signs.</p> <p>Suicide risk factors refer to personal or environmental characteristics that are associated with suicide including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental and Behavioral Health Issues/Disorders:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Depression.- Substance abuse or dependence.- Previous suicide attempts.- Self injury.• Personal Characteristics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hopelessness/Low self-esteem.- Loneliness/Social alienation/isolation/lack of belonging.- Poor problem-solving or coping skills.- Impulsivity/Risk-taking/recklessness.• Adverse/Stressful Life Circumstances:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Interpersonal difficulties or losses.
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Disciplinary or legal problems.- Bullying (victim or perpetrator).- School or work issues.- Physical, sexual or psychological abuse.- Exposure to peer suicide.• Family Characteristics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Family history of suicide or suicidal behavior.- Family mental and behavioral health problems.- Divorce/Death of parent/guardian.- Parental-Child relationship. <p>Warning signs are evidence-based indicators that someone may be in danger of suicide, either immediately or in the near future. Warning signs include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expressions such as hopelessness, rage, anger, seeking revenge, feeling trapped, anxiety, agitation, no reason to live or sense of purpose.• Recklessness or risky behavior.• Increased alcohol or drug use.• Withdrawal from friends, family, or society.• Dramatic mood changes. <p><u>Referral Procedures</u></p> <p>Any Intermediate Unit employee who observes a student exhibiting a warning sign for suicide or has another indication that a student may be contemplating suicide, shall refer the student for suicide risk screening and/or assessment and intervention in accordance with Intermediate Unit procedures.</p> <p><u>Documentation</u></p>
--	---

SC 1526	<p>involving or relating to an at-risk student, the notes should contain only factual or directly observed information, not opinions or hearsay.</p> <p>As stated in this policy, Intermediate Unit employees shall be responsible for effective documentation of incidents involving suicide prevention, intervention and response.</p> <p>The suicide prevention coordinator shall provide the Executive Director with a copy of all reports and documentation regarding the at-risk student. Information and reports shall be provided, as appropriate, to guidance counselors, Intermediate Unit mental and behavioral health professionals and school nurses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION RESOURCES</p> <p>A listing of resources regarding suicide awareness and prevention shall be attached to this policy.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1526</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.12</p> <p>Board Policy – 103.1, 113, 113.2, 113.3, 114, 117, 146, 204, 207, 216, 236, 248, 249, 333, 805, 806</p> <p>PSBA NEW: 4/15 © 2015 PSBA</p>
---------	--