

Lewis Center for Educational Research

BP 5141.52: STUDENTS SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

Adopted: December 10, 2018 **Revised: March 9, 2020**

The Lewis Center for Educational Research (LCER) Board of Directors (Board) recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth 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. To attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the President/CEO or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

Suicide prevention training shall be provided to teachers, counselors, school psychologists, and other LCER employees who regularly interact with students. The training shall be offered under the direction of a district counselor/psychologist and/or in cooperation with one or more community mental health agencies.

The Lewis Center for Educational Research will follow the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Safe Messaging Guidelines, available at <http://www.sprc.org/sites/sprc.org/files/library/SafeMessagingrevised.pdf>, in suicide prevention education with staff. Materials for training shall include how to identify appropriate mental health services at the school site and within the community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services. Materials also may include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials. (Education Code 215).

This policy specifically addresses:

1. The needs of high-risk groups, including but not limited to, all of the following:
 - a. Youth bereaved by suicide or other trauma
 - b. Youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders
 - c. Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings, such as foster care
 - d. Students who are being bullied
 - e. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth
2. Staff development on suicide awareness, prevention, intervention, and postvention for teachers, school counselors, and other district employees who regularly interact with students.
3. Materials approved by the LCER for training shall include how to identify appropriate mental health services, both at the school site and within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services.

4. Materials approved for training may also include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention plans for the Academy for Academic Excellence and Norton Science and Language Academy schools offer more detailed information regarding site-specific protocols and procedures and are available to staff, student, parents, and community members via the Lewis Center School Safety Plan.