

**TITLE: SUICIDE PREVENTION****PURPOSE:**

Lake Wales Charter Schools (LWCS) is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its students and school community, regardless of school choice, impairment, or socioeconomic status. LWCS recognizes the severity of suicide and its impacts on Florida's youth's mental health and students shall receive the same access and care from a school-based, certified Social Worker (LCSW or MSW). This policy covers actions that take place in the school, on school property, at school-sponsored functions and activities, on school buses or vehicles or at bus stops, and at school-sponsored out-of-school events where school staff are present. This policy applies to the entire school community.

**POLICY:**

1. LWCS directs all school district staff to be alert to students who exhibit signs of suicidal ideation and students who threaten or attempt suicide. Suicide ideation is the process of considering, fantasizing, planning, practicing, and motivating oneself to complete suicide. Any such signs or the report of other indicators from a student, staff, or family member should be taken with the utmost seriousness. Families, community members, and students are encouraged to report any such signs to the Principal or Health Services professional, who will then determine the need for a risk assessment.
2. The Superintendent shall develop an intervention plan for in-school suicide attempts, out-of-school suicide attempts, and an appropriate re-entry process, including a re-entry meeting to discuss the development of a safety plan and additional interventions or supports.
3. Professional development training in youth suicide awareness and prevention opportunities shall be provided to all staff. Additional continuing education programs of youth suicide awareness and prevention training, utilizing materials from the list approved by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) is available for all district staff in all job categories as well as other adults on campus who regularly interact with students or are in a position to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of suicide.
  - a. Personnel identified by job code will be required to complete evidence-based training on youth mental health awareness and assistance which instructs staff on how to identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, and substance use disorders, and provide

personnel with skills to help and connect these students and their families to community resources.

- b. If all instructional personnel at a District school participate in approved two (2) hour training, the school will be considered a “Suicide Prevention Certified School”.
4. When a student has been identified as exhibiting warning signs of self-harm or who threatens or attempts suicide:
  - a. A school-based mental health team member will attempt to de-escalate the student. The mental health team member will perform either the CSSRS or SAFE-T suicide risk assessment.
  - b. Prior to law enforcement being contacted the principal or their designee must verify that de-escalation strategies have been utilized and contact a mobile response team prior to determining whether the student requires an involuntary examination unless the principal or principal's designee reasonably believes that any delay in removing the student will increase the likelihood of harm to the student or others.
  - c. Annually the district and mobile response teams will coordinate with each other on the suicide screening assessment tool to be used to ensure they are utilizing the same screening instrument when determining if a student would require an involuntary examination.
5. When an involuntary examination has been deemed necessary, the principal or the principal's designee is required to make a reasonable attempt to notify the student's parent(s) before the student is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity. Additionally, the principal or the principal's designee must:
  - a. Use all available methods of communication to contact the student's parent, guardian, or known emergency contact, including phone calls, text messages, email, voicemail, and other available methods of communication provided by the parent; and
  - b. Document the method and number of attempts made to contact the student's parent, guardian or other known emergency contact and the outcome of each attempt.
6. The principal or principal designee may delay notification for no more than 24 hours after the student is removed if the principal or designee deems the delay to be in the student's best interest. A report must be submitted to the central abuse hotline, based upon knowledge or suspicion of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
7. The Superintendent or his designee will annually report to FLDOE the number of involuntary examinations that are initiated at a school, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity. Additionally, all IE data must be entered into the Involuntary Examination Restraint and Seclusion (IERS) web application within 48 hours of the initiated IE.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**1002.20, 1002.33, 1011.62,  
1012.583, 1012.584, F.S.**

**LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:**

**6A-4.0010, F.A.C., 6A-1.094124, F.A.C.,  
1011.62(14)(b)2, s. 39.201, s. 394.455, s.  
394.463, F.S.**

**ADOPTED:**

**04/24/2023**