

CRAZY Horse School

Board Members:

Monica Rattling Hawk-President
Richard Meyers -Vice President
Avril Livermont-Secretary
Sue Yellow Elk-Member
Valerie Adams-Member

Tasunke Witko Owayawa

P.O. Box 260

245 Crazy Horse School Drive

Wanblee, South Dakota 57577

PHONE: (605) 462-6792 FAX: (605) 462-6510



SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION INFORMATION

It is the goal of Crazy Horse School to provide an environment that is made up of a positive school climate and promote connectedness to help reduce the risk of suicide, violence, bullying and substance abuse. Providing a safe school with caring adults can help protect against suicidal ideation and attempts. It is important to protect the health and well-being of all students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

Risk Factors for Suicide:

- Self-Harm.
- Suicide Attempt.
- Suicidal Behavior.
- Suicide Contagion.
- Suicidal Ideation.

IN-SCHOOL SUICIDE ATTEMPT

The health and safety of the student is most important:

- First aid will be rendered until professional medical treatment and/or transportation can be received, following district emergency medical procedures.
- School staff will supervise the student to ensure their safety.
- Staff will move all other students out of the immediate area as soon as possible.
- If appropriate, staff will immediately request a mental health assessment for the youth.
- The school employed mental health professional or principal will contact the student's parent or guardian,
- Staff will immediately notify the principal or school suicide prevention coordinator regarding in-school suicide attempts.
- The school will engage as necessary the crisis team to assess whether additional steps should be taken to ensure student safety and well-being.
- For students returning to school after a mental health crisis a reentry plan will be created by the crisis team with steps to ensure the student is ready to return to school.

STAFF MEMBER LEARNING OF A SUICIDE ATTEMPT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

The staff member will:

1. Call the police and/or emergency medical services, such as 911.
2. Inform the student's parent or guardian.
3. Inform the school suicide prevention coordinator and principal.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION AND INVOLVEMENT

In situations where a student is assessed at risk for suicide or has made a suicide attempt, the student's parent or guardian will be informed as soon as practicable by the principal, designee, or mental health professional.

The crisis team will develop an action plan to guide school response following a death by suicide. The action plan may include the following steps:

- a. Verify the death. If the cause of death has been confirmed as suicide but the parent or guardian will not permit the cause of death to be disclosed, the school will not share the cause of death but will use the opportunity to discuss suicide prevention with students.
- b. Assess the situation. The crisis team will meet to prepare the postvention response, to consider how severely the death is likely to affect other students, and to determine which students are most likely to be affected.
- c. Share information. Before the death is officially classified as a suicide by the coroner's office, the death can and should be reported to staff, students, and parents/guardians with an acknowledgement that its cause is unknown. The crisis team may prepare a letter (with the input and permission from the student's parent or guardian) to send home with students that includes facts about the death, information about what the school is doing.
- d. Avoid suicide contagion. The crisis team will work with teachers to identify students who are most likely to be significantly affected by the death. In the staff meeting, the crisis team will review suicide warning signs and procedures for reporting students who generate concern.
- e. Initiate support services. The crisis team will coordinate support services for students and staff in need of individual and small group counseling as needed.
- f. Develop memorial plans. Any school-based memorials (e.g., small gatherings) will include a focus on how to prevent future suicides and prevention resources available.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

The school superintendent or designee will be the sole media spokesperson. Staff will refer all inquiries from the media directly to the spokesperson. The spokesperson will:

- a. Keep the district suicide prevention coordinator and school board informed of school actions relating to the death.
- b. Prepare a statement for the media including the facts of the death, postvention plans, and available resources.
- c. Answer all media inquiries. If a suicide is to be reported by news media, the spokesperson should encourage reporters not to make it a front-page story. Media should be asked to offer the community information on suicide risk factors, warning signs, and resources available.

(For more detailed information on this subject, please refer to the CHS Suicide Awareness and Prevention Policy.)