

CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: SUICIDE AWARENESS,
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

ADOPTED: November 18, 2004

REVISED: October 19, 2006, August 20, 2015

<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. Guidelines</p> <p>SC 1526</p> <p>SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">819. SUICIDE AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE</p> <p>The Joint Operating Committee is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt; and to promote access to suicide awareness and prevention resources.</p> <p>In compliance with state law and regulations, and in support of CCTI’s suicide prevention measures, information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student’s parents/guardians, the building principal or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or any other person is deemed to be at risk.</p> <p>CCTI shall utilize a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention which integrates school and community-based supports.</p> <p>CCTI shall notify school our employees, students and parents/guardians of this policy and shall post the policy on our website.</p> <p>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 CCTI’s resources and refer friends for help.</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 CCTI employees, including but not limited to secretaries, coaches, bus drivers and custodians, shall receive information regarding risk factors, warning signs,</p>
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<p>SC 1526 Pol. 333</p>	<p>response procedures, referrals, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention.</p> <p>As part of CCTI’s professional development plan, professional educators shall participate in four (4) hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training every five (5) years.</p> <p>Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention shall be provided to guidance counselors, school (center) mental health professionals and school nurses.</p> <p><u>Resources for Parents/Guardians</u></p> <p>CCTI 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 behavioral/mental health resources.</p>
<p>SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">METHODS OF PREVENTION</p> <p>The methods of prevention utilized by CCTI 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><u>Suicide Prevention Coordinator</u></p> <p>A suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the Administrative Director to act as a point of contact for issues relating to suicide. This may be an existing CCTI employee. CCTI’s suicide prevention coordinator shall be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy.</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 CCTI’s suicide prevention efforts. To promote awareness, CCTI’s employees, students and parents/guardians should be educated about suicidal risk factors and warning signs.</p> <p>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"> • Behavioral Health Issues/Disorders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depression. - Substance abuse or dependence.

- Previous suicide attempts.
- Self injury.
- Personal Characteristics:
 - 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:
 - Interpersonal difficulties or losses.
 - Disciplinary or legal problems.
 - Bullying (victim or perpetrator).
 - School or work issues.
 - Physical, sexual or psychological abuse.
 - Exposure to peer suicide.
- Family Characteristics:
 - Family history of suicide or suicidal behavior.
 - Family mental health problems.
 - Divorce/Death of parent/guardian.
 - Parental-Child relationship.

Warning signs are indications that someone may be in danger of suicide, either immediately or in the near future. Warning signs include, but are not limited to:

- Expressions such as hopelessness, rage, anger, seeking revenge, feeling trapped, anxiety, agitation, no reason to live or sense of purpose.

<p>SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">METHODS OF RESPONSE TO SUICIDE OR SUICIDE ATTEMPT</p> <p>The methods of response to a suicide or a suicide attempt utilized by the school include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying and training the school’s crisis response/crisis intervention team. 2. Determining the roles and responsibilities of each crisis response team member. 3. Notifying students, employees and parents/guardians. 4. Working with families. 5. Responding appropriately to the media. 6. Collaborating with community providers. <p>The Administrative Director or designee shall develop administrative regulations with recommended guidelines for responding to a suicidal act or attempt on school grounds or during a school-sponsored event.</p> <p><u>Re-Entry Procedures</u></p>
<p>Pol. 103.1, 113, 113.2, 113.3, 117, 204</p>	<p>A student’s excusal from attendance after a mental health crisis and the student’s return to the school shall be consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.</p> <p>A school-employed mental health professional, the building principal or suicide prevention coordinator shall meet with the parents/guardians of a student returning to the school after a mental health crisis, and, if appropriate, meet with the student to discuss re-entry and applicable next steps to ensure the student’s readiness to return to the school.</p> <p>When authorized by the student’s parent/guardian, the designated school employee shall coordinate with the appropriate outside mental health care providers.</p> <p>The designated school employee will periodically check in, as needed, with the student to facilitate the transition back into the school community and address any concerns.</p>
<p>SC 1526</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REPORT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Effective documentation assists in preserving the safety of the student and ensuring communication among school staff, parents/guardians and mental health service providers.</p>

SC 1526	<p>When a school employee takes notes on any conversations or situations 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, school employees shall be responsible for effective documentation of incidents involving suicide prevention, intervention and response.</p> <p>The suicide prevention coordinator shall provide the Administrative 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, school mental 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>Joint Operating Committee Policy – 103.1, 113, 113.2, 113.3, 114, 117, 146, 204, 207, 216, 236, 248, 249, 333, 805, 806</p>
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