



Gladstone School District 115
Suicide Prevention & Intervention Plan
Policy Number [JHH](#)

1. Commitment

- a. Gladstone School District is committed to the health and safety of all members in our school community. Therefore, this plan is 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. The district:
 - (1) Recognizes that physical and mental health are integral components of student outcomes, both educationally and beyond graduation
 - (2) Further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people
 - (3) Has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide
 - (4) Acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment that is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and helps to foster positive youth development and resilience
 - (5) Acknowledges that comprehensive suicide prevention policies include prevention, intervention, and postvention components. This plan is meant to be paired with other policies supporting the overall emotional and behavioral health of students.

2. Prevention

- a. District Plan Implementation – A district-level suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the Superintendent or their designee. The district suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating the implementation of this plan for the school district.
- b. School mental health professionals, such as School Counselors, School Psychologists, or other mental health positions will be points of contact in each school for issues relating to suicide prevention and plan implementation.
- c. All staff members shall report the names of students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to an administrator and/or school mental health professional.
- d. School employees act only within the authorization and scope of their credentials or licenses. This plan does not authorize or encourage a school employee to diagnose or treat mental illness unless the employee is specifically licensed and employed to do so.
- e. Staff Professional Development Process–
 - i. All staff will receive a minimum of an initial one-hour, in person training in an evidence-based suicide prevention program that includes warning signs, protective



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- factors, and when and how to refer youth and their families to appropriate mental health services.
- ii. After the initial training, subsequent professional development on response procedures, referrals, postvention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention are provided tri-annually.
 - iii. Professional development opportunities will also include methods to address the needs of high-risk groups including youth bereaved by suicide, youth with disabilities, mental illness or substance abuse disorders, youth experiencing homelessness or out of home settings and American Indian/Alaska Native students, Black, Latino/a, and Asian students, and LGBTQ+ students.
 - iv. Additional professional development in a research based risk assessment and crisis intervention program (such as ASIST) will be provided to school mental health professionals.
- f. Youth Suicide Prevention Programming – Developmentally appropriate, student-centered education materials will be integrated into the K-12 curriculum. The content of these age appropriate materials will include: 1) the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, 2) how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, 3) help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.
- g. Publication and Distribution – This plan will be distributed annually and included in student and teacher handbooks, at the district office, and on the district website.

3. Assessment and Referral

- a. When a student is identified by a staff person as potentially suicidal, i.e., verbalizes about suicide, presents overt risk factors such as agitation or intoxication, a significant act of self-harm occurs, or a student self-refers, the student will be seen by a school mental health professional to perform a suicide risk assessment.
- b. For youth at imminent risk of suicide or self-harm:
 - (1) School staff will continuously supervise the student to ensure their safety.
 - (2) The principal and school counselor will be made aware of the situation as soon as reasonably possible.
 - (3) The administrator or school counselor will contact the student's parent or guardian, as described in the Parental Notification and Involvement section.
 - (4) The family will be assisted with safety planning based on the suicide risk assessment. When appropriate, this may include calling emergency services, bringing the student to



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the local emergency department, or calling the county mental health crisis line, emergency services, or local hospital emergency department.

- (5) Staff will ask the student's parent or guardian for written permission to discuss the student's health with outside care, if appropriate.
- (6) District will ensure that supports are culturally and linguistically responsive.

4. Re-Entry Procedure After Mental Health Crisis

- a. For students returning to school after a mental health crisis (e.g., suicide attempt or psychiatric hospitalization), the student's administrator and school counselor will meet with the student's parent or guardian, and the student, if appropriate, to develop the student's safety plan.
 - (1) The school administrator and counselor will coordinate school re-entry with the student or their parent or guardian. Staff will seek to coordinate with any outside mental healthcare providers and obtain releases of information (ROI), if appropriate.
 - (2) The parent or guardian will provide documentation from an out of district mental health care provider that the student has undergone examination and that they are no longer a danger to themselves or others.
 - (3) Confidentiality is critical in protecting the student and enabling school personnel to render assistance. The school counselor or administrator will share the information that identified staff need to know to support the student's academic, social, emotional, and physical needs.
 - (4) The school counselor will periodically check in with the student and parent or guardian to help the student readjust to the school community and address any ongoing concerns.
- b. Students bereaved by suicide attempts will be supported by the school's administrator and/or mental health staff.

5. Parent Notification and Involvement

- a. 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 practical by an administrator or a mental health professional. If a parent is unavailable, the Clackamas County Crisis Line may be called (503-655-8585).
- b. If the student has exhibited any kind of suicidal behavior, the parent or guardian should be counseled on "means restriction," limiting the child's access to mechanisms for carrying out a suicide attempt.



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- c. Staff will also seek parental permission to communicate with outside mental health care providers regarding their child.
- d. Through discussion with the student, the administrator and school counselor will assess whether there is further risk of harm due to parent or guardian notification. If the administrator or school counselor believes, in their professional capacity, that contacting the parent or guardian would endanger the health or well-being of the student, they may delay such contact as appropriate. If contact is delayed, the reasons for the delay should be documented.

6. Postvention in the Event of a Death by Suicide

- a. Immediately following a student's death by suicide, the administrator and Flight Team (a trained and coordinated group of professionals who convene County-wide to support a school community) will develop an action plan to guide the school's response according to the Flight Team Manual. The action plan may include, but is not limited to:
 - (1) An administrator will contact the family of the deceased to provide support.
 - (2) An administrator will contact the District Office to notify appropriate offices and determine the Flight Team response.
 - (3) The administrator, District Office, and the Flight Team will assess the situation to determine postvention support.
 - (4) School mental health professional staff and administrators will collaborate with the county wide Flight Team and other mental health organizations if appropriate to initiate community support services for the impacted school(s) to promote healing.

7. Review of Suicide Intervention Actions

- a. Persons may request a school district to review the actions of a school in responding to suicidal risk by contacting the appropriate level director.
- b. Any review would be reflective of a student's state and federal rights including those under HIPAA and FERPA as well as employee confidentiality laws.