

Suicide Awareness and Prevention

The Port Angeles School District recognizes that suicidal behaviors are complex issues, a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. While school staff may recognize potentially suicidal youth and the District can make an initial risk assessment, the district cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Principals and counselors shall provide resources to parents/guardians and refer students who exhibit suicidal behaviors to an appropriate service for further assessment and counseling.

All employees and students will benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of adolescent suicide. The board directs the superintendent to develop and implement a comprehensive suicide awareness and prevention program to establish strategies to:

- A. Understand the developmental stages of adolescence and the causes of suicide;
- B. Identify risk factors for youth suicide;
- C. Learn how to intervene with such youth;
- D. Identify community resources and crisis response procedures that can provide proper assistance to such youth;
- E. Provide follow-up services on a completed suicide; and
- F. Offer training for teachers, counselors, nurses and other school staff and students to provide proper assistance.

School staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat must take the proper steps to support the student and to report this information to the building principal/designees or counselor who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family and/or appropriate resource services.

Cross References

Board Policy 3207
Policy 2140

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
Guidance and Counseling

Adopted: 6/9/2016