

Readiness Survey

Administrative Questions

A. Prevention refers to proactive activities designed to prepare a school for effective, timely responses to students who may be at risk for suicide.

1. Does your school have an up-to-date crisis response plan?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

2. Does the crisis response plan have solid administrative support?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

3a. Does the crisis response plan have written protocols on how to manage suicidal (student and/or staff) behavior?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

3b. Does the crisis response plan have written protocols on how to manage a suicidal (student and/or staff) attempt on campus?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

3c. Does the crisis response plan have written protocols on how to manage a suicidal (student and/or staff) attempt off campus?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

4a. Have crisis team members been identified?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

4b. Are individuals from both the school and the community involved in the crisis team?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

5. Are crisis team members provided with training?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

6. Are substitute crisis team members identified in case regular members are not available due to absence, conference attendance, vacation, and so forth?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

7. Would the crisis team be able to support multiple schools in the event of a murder/suicide situation? (For example, a parent murders siblings attending several different schools and then takes his or her own life.)

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

8. Do crisis team members have copies of school floor plans for their use and/or to provide to local law enforcement, if needed?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

9. Does the crisis team meet and practice simulations on a regular basis?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

10. Are copies of the school crisis plan readily accessible to all school personnel?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

11a. Is there an established method for distributing protocols that includes who should receive them?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

11b. Is there a plan for providing new staff with protocols?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

12. Has school administration provided clear direction about legal rights and obligations of administrators, faculty, and staff in assisting with a suicidal student?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

13. Is someone designated to track the number of suicides, suicide attempts, and/or referrals for suicidal behavior?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

14. Has a policy for maintaining confidentiality of sensitive student information been created and disseminated to all school personnel?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

15a. Does the school have a formal memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the local crisis service provider(s) outlining the services to be provided to the school system such as risk assessments, crisis management, and/or debriefing school staff in the aftermath of a crisis?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

15b. Does the MOA include debriefing parents and community members in the event of a suicide?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

16. Does the MOA include guidelines for how the school receives feedback on the outcomes of the referrals that are made?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

17. Have school administrators, faculty, and staff received education and training in suicide prevention?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

18a. Has an effective student suicide prevention education program been incorporated into the comprehensive health education program?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

18b. Does the program focus on building help-seeking skills? (Note: The student component should only be introduced after protocols have been established, MOAs are in place, staff education has occurred, and key staff identified as those who can help with suicidal behavior.)

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

19. Has a discussion with law enforcement occurred so that you know what to expect from the local law enforcement agency in the event of a crisis in school buildings or on school grounds?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

20. Has the traffic pattern to and from the school been reviewed with emergency response personnel?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

B. Intervention refers to an outline of specific actions to be implemented in response to suicidal behavior.

21. Do school procedures/protocols identify key people within each building as contacts to help when suicidal behavior occurs?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

22. Do school procedures designate someone to contact the parents/guardians when suicide risk is suspected?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

23. Does the school have procedures for when the parents/guardians are unreachable?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

24. Does the school have procedures for when parents/guardians refuse to get help for their child?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

25. Does the school provide information to parents/guardians about the importance of removing lethal means?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

26a. Does the school have a system to alert staff of an emergency while school is in session?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

26b. Have volunteers and substitutes been informed about the system?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

27. Are there protocols concerning how to help students re-enter school after an absence or hospitalization for mental illness including suicidal behavior?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

28. Are there systems/teams in place to address the needs of students who are exhibiting high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse, depression, or self-injury?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

C. Postvention refers to a sequence of planned support and interventions carried out in the aftermath of a suicide with the intention of preventing suicide contagion.

29a. Do the protocols include a section about working with the media?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

29b. Has a spokesperson been designated?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

29c. Is there a backup for that person?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

30a. In the event of a suicide, are there established protocols for identifying close friends/ other vulnerable students and plans to support them?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

30b. Does this protocol include students at other buildings?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

30c. Does this protocol include staff that might be affected due to either their relationship with the youth or their own experience with suicide in their families?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

31. Do the protocols consider the fact that, following a suicide, whole-school and/or permanent memorials are *not* recommended?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

Staff-related Questions

1. Have *all* staff members received training about suicide prevention?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

2. Have *all* staff members been provided with the school protocols?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

3a. Have trained resource staff members been identified as contacts for when a staff member or student wants to ask about suicidal behavior?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

3b. Has everyone in the building been informed of who the resource staff members are?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

4. Do staff members know what to do in the event that they come upon or hear about a suicide incident?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

5. Have the confidentiality guidelines been provided and discussed with *all* staff members?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

6. Do school protocols guide staff members on what to look for and what to do if they find student work/messages (such as artwork, doodling, homework, term papers, journal entries, or notes) that focus on death or suicide?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

7. Will teachers receive feedback on students whom they refer for an evaluation of suicidal risk?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

8. Do staff members understand that it is not their responsibility to assess the seriousness of a situation but that suicidal behavior must be taken seriously and reported using the school protocols?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

9. Do the protocols inform staff members about what to do if there is any reason to suspect a weapon is present/readily available?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

10. Are procedures in place to brief and debrief staff members in the event of a crisis?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

Parent-related Questions

1. Are opportunities provided for parents/guardians to learn about suicide prevention?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

2. Are there efforts to actively communicate with parents/guardians about risk factors, warning signs, and the importance of restricting access to lethal means?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

3. Have parents/guardians been told what the school is doing to prevent and address the issue of suicide, what will be done if their son or daughter is thought to be at risk of suicide, and what will be expected of them?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

4. Are parents/guardians provided with a current list of community resources and agencies to contact if they are concerned that their son or daughter is suicidal?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

Student-related Questions

1a. Are students educated about suicide and how to help a troubled friend?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

1b. Does the education include practicing an intervention?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

2. Do students know whom to go to in the school if they are worried about a suicidal friend?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS:

3. Are behavioral health services readily available to youth?

YES NO NEED TO CONSIDER

COMMENTS: