



Frederick County Public Schools
Board of Education
STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION
Policy 446

A. Policy Purpose

To establish clear expectations regarding the implementation of effective student suicide prevention strategies, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all students.

B. Definitions

1. “At-Risk” is defined to mean any youth with risk factors or warning signs that increase the likelihood of suicidal behavior.
2. “Mental Health” is defined to mean a state of mental, emotional, and cognitive health that can impact perceptions, choices and actions affecting wellness and functioning.
3. “Parent” is defined to mean a biological or adoptive parent, a court-appointed custodian or guardian, a foster parent, or a caregiver (as defined by the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code or as designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement).
4. “Risk Factors” is defined to mean characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may attempt to take their life.
5. “School Property” or “School Grounds” is defined to mean any school or other FCPS facility, including grounds owned or operated by FCPS, FCPS buses and other FCPS vehicles, chartered vehicles, and the facility and/or grounds of any FCPS-sponsored activity involving students.
6. “Self-Harm” is defined to mean behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself, which can be either non-suicidal or suicidal in nature.
7. “Suicidal Behavior” is defined to include suicide attempts, injury to oneself associated with at least some level of intent, developing a plan or strategy for suicide, gathering the means for a suicide plan, or any other overt action or thought indicating intent to end one’s life.
8. “Suicidal Ideation” is defined to include thinking about, considering, or planning for self-injurious behavior that may result in death.
9. “Suicide” is defined to mean death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior.
10. “Suicide Attempt” is defined to mean a self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence

that the person had at least some intent to die.

11. “Volunteer” is defined to include parents and other family members of FCPS students, as well as other members of the community interested in the education of children, who are willing to donate their time and energies to support FCPS students, and who perform, without compensation, school-related duties or tasks similar to those performed by an FCPS employee.

C. Policy Statement

1. The Board of Education (Board) recognizes that physical and mental health significantly impacts students’ educational outcomes and plays a crucial role in students’ overall well-being. The Board further recognizes that suicide is a major public health concern and a leading cause of death among young people.
2. The Board is committed to promoting the health and well-being of all Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) students. Therefore, the Board supports any and all efforts to identify students who are at risk for suicide and for staff to intervene, support, and refer students to appropriate resources and help.
3. The Board expectation is that all FCPS staff, coaches, and volunteers will be provided an annual training so that they may be better equipped to recognize risk factors, identify warning signs, be aware of intervention procedures and have access to resources.

D. Implementation

1. Professional Development and Training

a. Certificated Staff

- i. All certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis are required to complete training in the skills required to:
 1. Understand and respond to youth suicide risk;
 2. Identify professional resources to help students in crisis;
 3. Recognize student behavioral health issues;
 4. Recognize students experiencing trauma or violence out of school and refer students to behavioral health services, which includes, but is not limited to, the school counselor, school psychologist, school nurse, school social worker, and student support team; and
 5. Understand and respond to student mental health, student trauma, student safety and other topics related to student social and emotional well-being.
- ii. The training required must occur on or before December 1 of each school year.
- iii. The training will be:
 1. Provided to certificated school personnel during an in-service program; or
 2. A professional development requirement that may be met during time designated for professional development.
- b. FCPS also provides training to non-certificated staff as well as coaches, club sponsors, and volunteers.

2. **Reporting**

- a. All FCPS staff members, coaches, and volunteers shall report students they believe to be at-risk for suicide to the principal or their designee and school counselor or appropriate school mental health professional.
- b. School staff and coaches must be informed about the processes to follow if there are concerns regarding a student outside of the academic school day.
- c. Any FCPS staff member, coach, or volunteer who becomes aware that a student has made a verbal or written statement, electronic communication, social media post, or drawing related to suicide and/or self-harm must adhere to FCPS protocol as detailed in [FCPS Regulation 446-01, *Suicide Statements by Students*](#).

3. **Crisis Hotlines**

- a. “988” is the three-digit, nationwide phone number for both voice calls and texts, connecting directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- b. “211” is a Maryland-based mental health support resource line.
- c. The 988 and 211 phone numbers shall be:
 - i. Provided to all FCPS students annually through the [FCPS Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Conduct](#), and where applicable, included on student school identification cards.
 - ii. Published on FCPS’s website to ensure accessibility for the school community, administrators, staff, and parents.

4. The Superintendent is directed to establish a regulation(s) to implement this policy.

E. Related Information

1. **Board Policy**

- a. [Policy 404, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*](#)

2. **Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)**

- a. [COMAR 13A.07.11, *Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training*](#)
- b. [COMAR 13A.12.04, *Educator Licensure, Specialists*](#)

3. **FCPS Regulations**

- a. [Regulation 400-86, *Volunteers in Schools*](#)
- b. [Regulation 446-01, *Suicide Statements by Students* \(formerly 400-63\)](#)

4. **FCPS Resources**

- a. [FCPS Student Code of Conduct Webpage](#)

5. **Maryland Statutes**

- a. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 6-122](#)
- b. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 6-704.1](#)
- c. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-431](#)
- d. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-503](#)

F. Policy History (Maintained by Legal Services)

<i>Responsible Office</i>	Office of Student Services
Adoption Dates	08/28/19
Review Dates	
Revision Dates	06/11/25