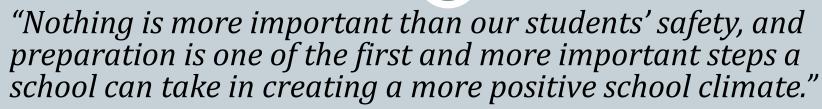
Student Crises

Prepare – Prevent – Intervene

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PRESENTED TO MARIN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS APRIL 6, 2016



Tom Torlakson CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction Letter to superintendents (2/24/2014)

"It is imperative that we collaborate to adopt district policies and administrative regulations to address suicide prevention in our school districts."

> Tom Torlakson CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction Letter to superintendents (7/21/2014)

STUDENT CRISES

- Preparation
- Intervention
- Postvention (Response)
- Resources

PREPARATION

- Policy & Practice
- Monitor At-Risk Students & Situations
- Training & Staff Development
- Crisis Response Team (CRT)

Policy & Practice

Policies

- SB187 School Safety Plans
- SB634 School Safety Plans/Safety Drills
- CA Ed Code §41533 (Jason Flatt Act)
- CA Ed Code §32280-32289
- Local Board Policy

Practices

- Update School Safety Plan
- Seek Input from Stakeholders, Law Enforcement, Community Partners
- Practice, Refine, Practice Again!

Identify & Monitor

- Identify and closely follow at-risk students
 - Provide mental health and social support
 - Work closely with parents/guardians
- Identify and monitor other potentially dangerous situations
 - Personnel disputes
 - Bullying & Harassment
 - Upset parents and/or community members
 - Gang activity
 - Law enforcement concerns

Training & Education

- Training & education recommendations for school staff, students, parents/community
 - School-wide suicide prevention programs
 - Sources of Strength, Signs of Suicide
 - MH Awareness & Gatekeeper Training
 - QPR, ASIST, More than Sad, Mental Health First Aid
- Create a safe and caring school climate
 - Character education programs (e.g., 6 Pillars, Second Step)
 - Robust anti-bullying policy
 - Restorative practices

Crisis Response Team

- Crisis response requires collaboration
- Set roles and responsibilities allow for smoother application of protocols in crisis
- Team members may vary by site personalize to match available staff
- Although CRT most intimately involved, ALL school staff should know when/how/to whom to refer at-risk students & understand a basic summary of intervention procedures

All Members

- Respond to urgent situations when needed
- Call 911, if needed
- Inform Team Leader about at-risk students/situations
- Provide first aid, when needed
- Clear area and ensure student safety

Team Leader

- Coordinates annual training
- Mobilizes team members, as needed
- Coordinates team member assignments
- Liaison between principal and district office

Principal/Assistant Principal

- Liaison with police, fire or other authorized outside agency
- Brief district office administration
- Notifies family members of student crisis
- Modifies school schedule, if necessary
- Resumes normal schedule as soon as possible
- Secures campus
- Communicates with other school sites, as necessary
- Evaluates and revises school crisis response, as necessary

- School Psychologist/Counselors
 - Conducts student interviews, risk assessments
 - Contacts community resources
 - Contacts and works with parents
 - Documents actions
- School Nurse or Health Technician
 - Administers first aid, triage
 - Locates emergency card for injured student(s)
- Campus Supervisor
 - Coordinates immediate security and protection
 - Roams campus to identify students in need

School Secretary

- Maintains up-t0-date info for CRT
- Maintains communication for principal
- Responds to crisis-related inquiries (uses sample script)

Teachers

- Take every warning sign seriously
- Ensure safety of students during and after emergency
- If in stay-put/shelter-in-place situation do not allOw students to enter or exit room
- Keep students informed as directed by principal
- Reassure students
- Focus discussion on reaction students are having and how to support each other
- Refer students in need to Crisis Team Leader

- Media Spokesperson/Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
 - Responds to media inquiries

Working with the Media

- Guidelines for Working with the Media
 - Written statement for media representatives including the following:
 - Brief statement acknowledging the death of the student (no details if suicide) – first confirm with law enforcement and family, if possible
 - An expression of the school's sympathy to family/survivors
 - Information about the school's postvention program
 - All other staff, including School Board members
 - Refrain from making any comments or responding to media requests
 - Refer all media requests to Media Spokesperson
 - Media Representatives
 - Not permitted to conduct interviews on school grounds
 - Not permitted to attend parent and student group meetings to protect parents sharing information about their children
 - In case of suicide, be provided with SPRC's "At-a-Glance: Safe Reporting on a Suicide"

Adapted from Kerr, M, Brent, D., McKain, B., & McCommons, P. (2003). Postvention standards manual: A guide for a school's response in the aftermath of sudden death (4th ed.) Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh/Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

POSTVENTION

- Postvention Planning Helps with ALL Sudden Traumatic Events
- Detailed, day-by-day guide for how to best respond to a school death or traumatic event, including:
 - Sample scripts and letters for notification
 - Resources for talking about suicide or student/staff death with staff and students
 - Recommended guidelines for memorialization
 - How to minimize risk of suicide contagion by working with the media
- Steps to take in the long-term aftermath
 - Enhance identification and support of vulnerable students
 - Prepare for anniversaries and special events
 - Support the family of the deceased, as well as the school's staff members and Crisis Response Team