

Academy of Dover Charter School Suicide Prevention Policy

The Academy of Dover Charter School recognizes the serious problem with youth suicide and acknowledges that providing this policy for the school related to youth suicide recognition and prevention is very important. Academy of Dover also acknowledges that youth suicide is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by the districts and schools alone. This Suicide Prevention Policy meets the requirements of **14 Del. C. §4124**.

Suicide Prevention Training for Public School Employees

Each public school employee of the Academy of Dover shall participate in at least one combined training each year totaling at least ninety (90) minutes in suicide prevention. The training materials shall be evidence-based and approved by the Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. Any in-service training required by this section shall be provided within the contracted school year provided in **14 Del. C. §1305(e)**. All public school employees shall provide evidence or proof of participation and completion.

Suicide Prevention Program

Academy of Dover has developed a Suicide Prevention Program. The components of the program may vary to address the needs of different grade levels. The Suicide Prevention Committee pursuant to Section III shall be responsible for the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Program.

Suicide Prevention Committee

Academy of Dover will establish a committee that is responsible for coordinating the Suicide Prevention Program within the school.

- A. When setting up the Committee, the Head of School may wish to consider including persons such as the Behavior Interventionist, School Psychologist, School Nurse, or representative from the medical community who may have insight into the prevention or recognition of the warning signs of youth suicide.
- B. The Committee shall:
 1. Hold regular meetings
 2. Coordinate any required staff training
 3. Create and maintain a training log to record that all appropriate staff have been trained.
 4. Meet any of the requirements assigned in the section below

Other Requirements

- A. **Procedure for the confidential and anonymous reporting of warning signs of suicide.**

Academy of Dover's Suicide Prevention Committee shall determine the process it will use to provide for confidential and anonymous reporting of a student demonstrating the warning signs of suicide. The following document outlines the process for reporting such

warning signs. This documentation will be maintained by the Head of School or a designated staff member.

B. Procedure for communication between staff and medical professionals who are involved in treating students for suicide issues.

Academy of Dover's Suicide Prevention Committee shall determine the process it will use to provide for communication between staff members and medical professionals who are involved in treating students for suicide issues. The procedure may be tailored to meet the needs of Academy of Dover's grade levels. All communications will be documented and maintained by the Head of School or a staff member designated by the Head of School.

C. Posting of the Suicide Prevention Policy

Academy of Dover shall post this Suicide Prevention Policy on the school's website as well as in the Student and Employee handbooks.

D. Retaliation Restrictions

No employee, school volunteer or student shall be retaliated against for reporting a student thought to be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide.

Appendix A: Procedures for School Staff and Healthcare Professionals

The following procedures for communication between school staff and healthcare professionals who are involved in treating students for self-harm, suicide attempt, or threatening of either shall be followed:

1. Academy of Dover's process is to immediately report any student thought to be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide to the School Nurse, Head of School, or Assistant Principal. This may initially be done verbally, however, a written record of the report shall be prepared. An employee, school volunteer or student is individually immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting warning signs of suicide in accordance with these procedures unless that reporting constituted gross negligence and/or reckless, willful or intentional conduct.
2. Healthcare professionals- The primary contacts at the Academy of Dover are identified in section 1 above. Since all students are under the age of 18, a Release of Information form shall be signed by the parent, guardian, or relative caregiver in order for the primary care physician or healthcare professional to communicate with school personnel regarding any treatment of the student. In accordance with HIPPA and FERPA guidelines, releases shall be signed before communication can take place. Communications without signed releases in emergency situation may occur in accordance with HIPPA and FERPA regulations and guidelines.
3. If a parent refuses to sign a release form at school, the school will review this policy with them, explaining the reasons the release would be beneficial to the student.
4. After confirmation that a student has been involved in a suicide ideation or suicidal behavior, the student shall be evaluated by a licensed healthcare professional or a non-licensed healthcare professional working under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional.
5. The recommendations from the healthcare evaluation which are pertinent to managing the student's risk in school shall be shared at a meeting between the student, parent/guardian, school nurse, head of school, or designee prior to the student's return to school. Recommendations will be shared with school personnel who are responsible for their implementation.
6. Emergency evaluations can be obtained from hospital emergency departments; a licensed health care professional; a physician; nurse practitioner; or from the state's Child Priority Response Mobile Crisis Service if the student is under 18 years of age.