



RESPONSE TO SUICIDAL IDEATION, SELF-INJURY, SUICIDE ATTEMPT OF STUDENTS

Responsibility:	<i>Superintendent Student Achievement & Well-Being</i>
Legal References:	<i>Education Act</i>
Related References:	<i>Board Policy (BP) 6000 – Safe Schools Policy BP 6008- Student Discipline BP 1008 – Equity and Inclusion Administrative Procedure (AP) 1260 - Student Discipline AP 1270 - Traumatic Events Response AP 1280 - Threat Risk Assessment AP 1360 - Safety Response Issues in Schools AP 1370 - Responsibility for Maintaining Safety, Security and Order in the School Environment AP 2330 - Management and Process for Student Behaviours Causing Risk of Injury AP 3720 - Racial, Religious and Ethno Cultural Harassment Expectations of Administrative Response to Suicide</i>
Reviewed:	<i>March 2016, May 2017</i>
Revised:	<i>May 2017, September 2022</i>

1. Preamble

Suicidal Ideation, Self-Injury and Suicide Attempts are situations that cause distress or disruption to individuals or a group. The following procedure contains expectations relating to the management and system support of suicidal ideation, self-injury and/or suicide attempts. In the event of a death by suicide, AP1270 will be initiated.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 **Suicidal Ideation** refers to thoughts of engaging in suicidal behaviour with or without a specific plan.
- 2.2 **Self-Injury** refers to the direct, deliberate act of harming one's body without the conscious intention to die. Self-Injury may result in death and may be a risk factor for suicide.
- 2.3 **Suicide Attempt** is a potentially self-injurious act intended to end one's life but which does not result in death.
- 2.4 **Critical Events Response Administrator (CERA)** is a centrally-based staff member who coordinates Traumatic Events Response and Violence Threat Risk Assessment.

3. Duty to Report

- 3.1 All staff must report all behaviours related to suicidal ideation, self-injury or suicide attempts immediately to the School Administrator or Teacher in Charge.
- 3.2 Students may be more willing to confide in certain staff at schools based on the role of that staff member (e.g., Guidance Counsellor, Child and Youth Worker, Teacher). As in 3.1, all staff must report all behaviours related to suicidal ideation, self-injury or suicide attempts immediately to the School Administrator or Teacher in Charge. In addition, these staff should work collaboratively with the school Social Worker to undertake an initial assessment.

4. Responsibilities of School Administrators

- 4.1 When Suicidal Ideation, Suicide Attempts or the first incident of Self-Injury are reported, the School Administrator or Teacher in Charge shall, after ensuring the student is safe and supervised:
 - 4.1.1 Contact and consult with the assigned school Social Worker;
 - 4.1.2 If assigned school Social Worker is not available on site, contact and consult with Critical Events Response Administrator;
 - 4.1.3 Contact parents or guardians;
 - 4.1.4 For repeated occurrences of self-injury, follow the safety response plan as referred to in 6.1.5. The Social Worker should be consulted to determine if there is a change in baseline behaviour and parents contacted when appropriate.

5. Responsibilities of Critical Events Response Administrator

- 5.1 The Critical Events Response Administrator shall:
 - 5.1.1 Consult with the School Administrator or Teacher in Charge;
 - 5.1.2 Deploy assigned school Social Worker to the school site;
 - 5.1.3 Consult and collaborate with senior administration, managers, school administrators and others as deemed appropriate;
 - 5.1.4 Debrief response.

6. Responsibilities of the Social Worker

- 6.1 Under the direction of the Critical Events Response Administrator and the School Administrator, the assigned Social Worker shall:
 - 6.1.1 Undertake initial assessment of student identified as potentially being at risk of suicide and/or self-injury;
 - 6.1.2 Contact parents or guardians to discuss initial assessment;
 - 6.1.3 Provide information and resources in consideration of diverse cultural and faith-based populations;
 - 6.1.4 Refer schools and families to appropriate community agencies for immediate or long-term support;
 - 6.1.5 Assist School Administrator and school staff to develop and monitor a safety response plan, as appropriate.