

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Duties of Teachers and Administrative Staff

Any person licensed as administrative or instructional personnel by the Virginia Board of Education and employed by the Alexandria City School Board who, in the scope of his/her employment, has reason to believe, as a result of direct communication from a student, that such student is at ~~imminent~~ risk of suicide, shall, as soon as practicable, contact a school counselor, school nurse, school psychologist, or school social worker, known as a qualified school professional (QSP), to meet with the student and contact the student's parents or guardians per established protocol.

- If no QSP is available, school staff should contact a school administrator who will contact the student's parents or guardians with the concern per established protocol.
- If no QSP or administrator is available, ~~the staff member will~~ contact at least one of such student's parents or guardians to share the information of concern. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached the staff member should contact a adult listed as an emergency contact,; ask whether ~~they are~~~~such parent is~~ aware of the student's mental state, and whether the parent wishes to obtain or has already obtained counseling for such student. Non-licensed school personnel shall also notify a QSP team member and a school administrator of the parent or guardian contact and reason for concern so that appropriate follow-up measures are enacted. ~~immediately contact their supervisor/administrator to facilitate communication with parents.~~ All contact shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines and regulations established by the Superintendent.

At no time should a student who is potentially at risk of suicide be left alone and unsupervised for any reason..

#### Contacting the Parent/Guardian

If the section below titled "Abuse or Neglect" does not apply, then the staff member shall call at least one of the student's parents/guardians. When contacting a parent/guardian, the staff member should:

1. Provide his/her name and position in the school;
2. Tell the parent/guardian that he/she has reason to believe, as a result of direct communication from the student, that the student is at imminent risk of suicide;
3. Assure the parent/guardian that the student is currently safe;

**Comment [JA1]:** This language will be included in Regulation JHH-R.

4. ~~State the legal requirement for the call, citing Va. Code § 22.1-272.1;~~
5. ~~Ask the parent/guardian whether he or she is aware of the student's mental state;~~
6. ~~Ask the parent/guardian whether he or she wishes to obtain or has obtained mental health counseling for the student;~~
7. ~~Provide names of community counseling resources if appropriate and offer to facilitate the referral; and~~
8. ~~Determine the parent's intent to seek appropriate services for the student.~~

### Abuse or Neglect

If the student has indicated that the reason for being at imminent risk of suicide relates to parental abuse or neglect, contact ~~shall is~~ not be made with the parent. Instead, the staff member ~~notifies shall~~, as soon as practicable, ~~notify~~ the local department of social services of the county or city wherein the child resides or wherein the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred or the state Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline as required by Policy ~~JHG/GAE~~ Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Va. Code § 63.2-1509. When giving this notice to the local or state department, the person ~~shall stress~~ es the need to take immediate action to protect the child from harm.

### Inability to Reach Parent/Guardian

~~If the staff member is unable to make contact with the parent/guardian by the end of the school day, then he/she shall follow the ACPS Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines.~~

### Required Documentation

~~The staff member shall document the phone call to the parent/guardian by recording: (a) the time and date of the call; (b) the individual contacted; (c) the parent/guardian's response; and (d) anticipated follow up. This information shall be recorded on the forms provided in the ACPS Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines.~~

### Training

~~Qualified School Professionals (QSP) School Support Team Members~~ and School Administrators shall be trained on the policy and associated protocols and reviews of guidelines completed annually. ~~to become familiar with the policy and ACPS Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines.~~ In addition, school administrators will ensure that all staff receive an annual review of the ACPS Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines for handling situations involving concerns of

**Comment [2]:** Recommended for reclassification as Policy GAE by VSBA. "G" policies relate to personnel, and this policy discusses staff responsibilities related to Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting.

**Comment [JA3]:** This language will be included in Regulation JHH-R.

**Comment [JA4]:** This language will be included in Regulation JHH-R.

suicide risk. The ACPS Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines will be available to all staff electronically and in hard copies in the health office and with the school administrator.

**Additional Concerns**

~~If parental/guardian contact is made and, in the course of this contact, relevant issues of abuse or neglect are discovered (e.g., a parent acknowledges the child's suicidal intent but indicates no intent to act for the well being of the child), the staff member shall report the abuse or neglect in accordance with Policy JHG /GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting.~~

**Comment [JA5]:** This language will be included in Regulation JHH-R.

**Duty to Keep Student Safe and Secure**

~~A student who is at imminent risk of suicide shall remain under adult supervision until a parent/guardian or other authorized individual accepts responsibility for the student's safety.~~

**Comment [JA6]:** This language will be included in Regulation JHH-R.

**Parental Review of Materials**

Parents have the right to review any audio-visual materials that contain graphic sexual or violent content used in any anti-bullying or suicide prevention program. Prior to the use of any such material, the parent of a child participating in such a program is provided written notice of the parent's right to review the material and the right to excuse the child from participating in the part of such program utilizing such material.

**Comment [7]:** This section has been added to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-207.2:1 by HB 2107.

- Adopted: June 23, 1999
- Amended: June 15, 2004
- Amended: June 9, 2011
- Amended: May 14, 2015
- Amended: June 22, 2017
- Amended:

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-207.2:1, 22.1-272.1 and 63.2-1509.

Cross Refs: ~~Va. Board of Education "Suicide Prevention Guidelines" (Revised 2003).~~  
 JHG/GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting  
JHH-R Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines  
 EB School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical  
 Emergency Response Plan