



Española Public Schools

PROTOCOL: SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

RE: LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY

If a student is injured or is deemed to have an altered level of consciousness (this includes situations when a student reports having ingested medications but does not show physical signs of intoxication or overdose) -- CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

Then Immediately Contact the Principal or LEA

Principal or LEA will contact Psychologist, Social Worker and /or Counselor

Intervening

When a student threatens suicide or shows signs of intent, **immediate action** must be taken to intervene on behalf of the student. The student should be under adult supervision at all times, either by a guardian or by phone from school personnel. Referring staff member must complete Referral Form for Threat Assessment (attached as Appendix H).

Scenarios that warrant referral:

- i. Student directly expresses ideation or plans about dying or committing suicide.
- ii. A peer reports that a student has expressed suicidal ideation.
- iii. A written product (note, school assignment) that suggests suicidal ideation or depression.
- iv. Observation by staff of significant changes in behavior such as crying, withdrawn behavior, especially after breakup with boyfriend/girlfriend, or known significant stressor at home (death, illness, incarceration of family member, divorce).

Reporting the Information

Any school employee who has knowledge of a suicide threat must report this information to the school ADMINISTRATOR. Administrator will, in turn, contact the School Psychologist and/or Social Worker, and /or School Counselor. A list of names and phone numbers is attached.

Child Protective Services Involvement

CPS does not act on suicide threats unless they are accompanied by suspected child abuse or neglect. Therefore, if there is a disclosure of abuse or neglect or abuse/neglect is suspected, all staff are mandated by law to contact CYFD to make a referral.



Española Public Schools

EPS Procedural Directive for All Employees

Intervening with a Potential Suicide

RE: LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY

If the student is injured or appears to have an altered level of consciousness (this includes situations where the student reports having ingested medications but does not show physical signs of overdose) – CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

Then Immediately Contact the Site Principal

Site Principal will contact Psychologist or Social Worker, and Counselor

If a student threatens suicide or manifests the signs of intent:

If a student reports that another student has threatened suicide or has manifested signs of intent:

When any EPS employee becomes aware of a suicide threat:

Once a student has been identified as possibly suicidal, staff should locate that student. From that point on, student should be under adult supervision at all times.

Never leave student by themselves (or alone with another student) while securing assistance.

EPS employee responsibility is to secure immediate assistance from designated staff (see below)

It is not an EPS individual employee's duty or role to assess the level of risk or do in-depth counseling.

Contact: School Administrator or LEA

Complete Referral Form for Threat Assessment (this should accompany your referral to Administrator. However, if it is not possible to complete the form, proceed with a verbal referral to Administrator and complete the form at a later time that same day. Turn into Administrator that day.