



Suicide and Student Discipline Guidance Document For Building Leaders in Discipline

Foundation for Concern

It is commonly reflected in the research that students who are engaged in the disciplinary process, such as suspension, can be at an increased risk for harm to self. This highlights the importance of school mental health teams and school disciplinary teams to collaborate closely to respond to the needs of students who experience disciplinary action. This is especially important when a student is suspended and sent home without confirmation of a supervision plan.

Role of the Discipline Building Leader

Given the strong correlation between suicidal and violent behavior, addressing suicidal behaviors may help address other violent behaviors. When you, as the discipline building leader, encounter a student who communicates to you in some way that they are thinking of harming themselves or when a parent/guardian reveals the student has communicated the intent of self-harm, a building mental health staff person needs to be immediately contacted and that person needs to immediately complete a Suicide Risk Review.

At any time, consultation regarding an Action and Intervention Plan as part of the Suicide Risk Review Process can be accessed by calling Jane Lineman (720-656-2939) or Barbara Downing at 720-423-8223 or 303-947-2787. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure there is proper supervision of the student during the suspension period and that the necessary supports are accessible to students and families.

Please note: Students who threaten suicide or engage in acts of self-harm cannot be suspended for these behaviors alone. However, if a student brings a weapon or substance to school to engage in any degree of self-harm that meets the criteria (per Student Discipline Policy and Procedure JK and JK-R), then a suspension can be considered. A Suicide Risk Review must be completed immediately. Please contact Jane Lineman at 720-656-2939 Ellen Kelty at 303-728-4121, or Barb Downing at 720-423-8223 or 303-947-2787 if you have any questions or difficulty contacting your building mental health provider.