



## **Suicide and Student Discipline Guidance Document For Building Leaders in Discipline**

### **Foundation for Concern**

A large body of evidence exists in research demonstrating students with thoughts of self-harm, with thoughts of suicide, and/or suicide plans are more likely to hurt themselves when they are also experiencing a student disciplinary action – such as suspension. **Do not utilize exclusionary discipline such as a suspension or expulsion or similar removal from school with a student who is experiencing thoughts of self-harm or suicide prior to engaging the Suicide Risk Review process, discussed further below.**

### **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 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.

Once the Suicide Risk Review has been completed, contact Jane Lineman at 303-242-6140 or [Jane\\_Lineman@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jane_Lineman@dpsk12.org) for a consultation about the needed supports before suspending the student or allowing the student to leave the building. 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 documented on the Suicide Risk Review Safety Plan.

**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, and Jane Lineman contacted (303-242-6140) for a consultation before suspending the student or allowing the student to leave the building.

Questions?

Contact Jane Lineman, 303-242-6140 or [Jane\\_Lineman@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jane_Lineman@dpsk12.org), for consult regarding the student's safety needs

Contact Discipline Program Managers for student discipline consultation

[Lisa\\_Pisciotta@dpsk12.org](mailto:Lisa_Pisciotta@dpsk12.org)

Charter Schools

District Managed Elementary Schools (except Kunsmiller Elementary School)

District Managed Middle Schools (except Hamilton Middle School, & Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences)

[Barbara\\_Downing@dpsk12.org](mailto:Barbara_Downing@dpsk12.org)

KCAA Elementary, Middle and High Schools

Hamilton Middle School

Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences

District Managed Pathway Schools

District Managed High Schools

District Managed 6- 12 Schools