

Portland Public School District 1st Reading

DATE OF FIRST READING: December 15, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR Policy 4.30.050-P:

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

The Portland Public School District is providing Notice of Proposed Revised Policy and Public Comment to offer interested parties reasonable opportunity to submit data or comments on the proposed policies noted below.

Public comment may be submitted in writing directly to the district or through the district website noted below. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm on the Last Date for Comment listed below.

Last Date for Comment: January 05, 2021

Summary: SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

1st Reading by: Director Rita Moore
Portland Public School Board

Recommended for 1st Reading by: Portland Public Schools Board of Education
Policy Committee

Draft Policy Web Site: <https://www.pps.net/Page/11911>

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Board Policy

4.30.050-P

Student Suicide Prevention

Portland Public Schools recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that even more youth consider and attempt suicide. The possibility of suicide and suicidal ideation requires vigilant attention from all PPS staff. This policy is required by Oregon law, which was passed in 2019 in response to the advocacy of the family of a former PPS student, Adi Staub, who identified as transgender and died by suicide in 2017.

As a result, we must engage in best practices to provide school-wide suicide prevention and intervention strategies to minimize suicidal ideation and prevent attempts and deaths. We also must create safe and nurturing schools that increase connections and build strengths and self-worth in students. These efforts align with the PPS Racial Equity and Social Justice framework and center on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) students and LGBTQIA+ (A common abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, transgender, genderqueer, queer, intersexed, agender, questioning, and two-spirited), students living with mental and/or substance use disorders, who engage in self harm or have attempted suicide, living in out-of-home settings, experiencing houselessness, bereaved by suicide, and those with medical conditions or certain types of disabilities because these students are at higher risk for suicide. The emotional wellness of students greatly impacts school attendance and educational success. This policy is based on research and best practices in suicide prevention and has been adopted with the understanding that effective suicide prevention activities decrease suicide risk, increase help-seeking behavior, identify those at risk of suicide, and decrease suicidal behaviors.

District Plan for Suicide Prevention

The District will collaborate with local and national experts to create and maintain a comprehensive approach to address suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (a crisis intervention strategy designed to reduce the risk of suicide and suicide contagion, provide the support needed to help survivors cope with a suicide death, address the social stigma associated with suicide, and disseminate factual information on the suicide death of a member of the school community). The District will continually review, update, and



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