



State Board of Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Jacob Oliva
DATE: May 15, 2020

Contact Information:

Andrew Weatherill
850-245-7851
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DPS: 2020-52

SUBJECT: Continuing Education and Inservice Training Materials for Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention and Criteria for Suicide Prevention Certified Schools

The State Board of Education adopted Rule 6A-4.0010, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), on May 13, 2020. Rule 6A-4.0010, F.A.C., establishes criteria and procedures for implementation of section 1012.583, Florida Statutes (F.S.), including components of Florida Department of Education (FDOE)-approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials, criteria for the provision of approved training, and policies and procedures for administering suicide risk assessments. This rule is effective upon adoption.

A list of FDOE-approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials is posted on the Office of Safe Schools website at <http://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/>. FDOE-approved trainings must include an interactive component conducted by a school-based mental health services provider that addresses district-and school-specific information. A “school-based mental health services provider” is defined as an FDOE-certified school psychologist, school social worker, school counselor or a mental health professional licensed under Chapter 490 or 491, F.S., employed or contracted by a district to provide mental health services in schools. A district may request approval of district-developed or -adopted youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials that meet the criteria in Rule 6A-4.0010, F.A.C., by completing the Review of Suicide Awareness Training form, RSAT-2020 (Attachment A).

A school must meet the following criteria to be considered a “Suicide Prevention Certified School”:

1. All instructional personnel must complete two hours of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training, and repeat training every three years;
2. The requirement for all instructional personnel to complete youth suicide awareness and prevention training is included in the district’s continuing education or master inservice plan;

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3. The school has at least two school-based mental health services providers that are qualified to conduct a suicide risk assessment using an FDOE-approved screening instrument; and
4. The school or district has a policy requiring the use of an approved suicide risk assessment instrument administered by a school-based mental health services provider prior to requesting or initiating an involuntary examination due to concerns about a student's suicide risk. A list of approved suicide screening instruments is posted on the Office of Safe Schools website at <http://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/>.

A school that meets the criteria for a "Suicide Prevention Certified School" must report compliance to the FDOE by submitting the Suicide Prevention Certified School form, SPCS-2020 (Attachment B), to SuicidePreventionSchools@fldoe.org by October 1 of each school year.

Additional resources on suicide awareness and prevention are posted on the Student Support Services Project website at <http://sss.usf.edu/>. If you have questions regarding Rule 6A-4.0010, F.A.C., please contact Andrew Weatherill, director, Student Support Services Project, at Andrew.Weatherill@fldoe.org or 850-245-7851.

JO/dw

Attachments: RSAT-2020 (Attachment A)
SPCS-2020 (Attachment B)

cc: School District Assistant Superintendents
School District Principals
District Student Services Directors
Monica Verra-Tirado
Andrew Weatherill