



# FREIRE

## CHARTER WILMINGTON

POLICY NUMBER	213
SECTION	Students
TITLE	Suicide Prevention
ADOPTED	8/18/2016
AMENDED	

### SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

Freire Charter School Wilmington recognizes the serious problem of youth suicide and acknowledges that providing this policy for schools and districts related to youth suicide recognition and prevention is very important. The School also acknowledges that youth suicide is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by the School alone. This Suicide Prevention Policy outlines the School's suicide prevention program and meets the requirements of 14 Delaware Code § 4124, relative to Suicide Prevention.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Each employee of the School must participate in at least ninety minutes of training in suicide prevention within each contracted school year as provided in 14 Delaware Code §1305(e). The training materials will be evidence-based and approved by the Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. All School employees must provide evidence or proof of participation and completion to the School. The School will maintain a log to record that all staff have completed the appropriate training.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Freire Charter School Wilmington will establish a committee that will be responsible for coordinating the School's Suicide Prevention Program. The committee will include the Head of Academic Supports, Ruble Harris, the school counselor, and any other individuals deemed appropriate. The committee will determine what additional steps are warranted as part of a suicide prevention program beyond annual staff training and a procedure for reporting suicide warning signs.

#### REPORTING OF SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

##### REPORTING BY EMPLOYEES

**Any Freire Charter School Wilmington Employee who notices a student demonstrating warning signs of suicide, suicidal ideation, or threatening, attempting, or acting on suicide or self-harm is required to report this observation to the Head of Climate or the Head of School immediately. This must be treated as a mental health concern and the employee must follow the School's emergency procedures.** Head of Climate, Ruble Harris, will maintain a record of all such reports.

In the event of an active suicide attempt or another situation in which the student is in immediate danger, the staff member must treat the situation as a mental health emergency and immediately call the Head of Climate or a member of the Emotional Supports team. In these situations, it may not be possible for the School to protect that anonymity of the reporting staff member.

If the student is not in immediate danger but has demonstrated warning signs of suicide, this should still be reported immediately to the Head of Climate. This report should be made in person, by phone, or via e-mail. If the reporting staff member wishes to remain anonymous, the staff member must state this request when making the report. When requested, the School will take all practical steps to protect the identity of the reporting individual.

#### REPORTING BY STUDENTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Any student, volunteer, or other community member may report warning signs of suicide directly to Head of Climate or to any School employee. Employees who receive a report from another community member should immediately connect the individual directly to the Head of Climate if the reporting individual is willing. Otherwise the staff member must take a detailed report and immediately share all information with the Head of Climate. All reports from non-employee community members will be kept anonymous to the greatest extent practical.

#### RETALIATION RESTRICTIONS

No employee, School volunteer, or student shall be retaliated against for reporting a student thought to be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide. A School employee, School volunteer, or student is individually immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting warning signs of suicide in accordance with these procedures unless that reporting constitutes gross negligence and/or reckless, willful, or intentional conduct.

#### COMMUNICATION REGARDING TREATMENT OF STUDENTS FOR SUICIDE ISSUES

Please see Communication with Outside Medical Providers in the Health Services section for the School's policy on this topic.

#### STUDENT PRIVACY

The School will follow all applicable privacy laws and regulations with regard to reports of students who were reported to exhibit suicide warning signs, communications regarding treatment of students for suicide issues, and all related records. Applicable laws may include but are not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

#### TREATMENT FOR SUICIDE ISSUES

After confirmation that a student has demonstrated suicidal ideation or suicidal behavior, the student will be evaluated by a licensed healthcare professional or a non-licensed healthcare professional working under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional.

The recommendations from the healthcare evaluation which are pertinent to managing the student's risk in school will be shared at a meeting between the student, parent/guardian, and an appropriate School administrator prior to the student's return to school. Recommendations will be shared with School personnel who are responsible for their implementation.

Emergency evaluations may be obtained from hospital emergency departments; a licensed healthcare professional; a physician; or nurse practitioner; or from the state's Child Priority Response Mobile Crisis Service if the student is under 18 years of age, or from the Adult Mobile Crisis Service if the student is between the ages of 18-21.