
Albuquerque Public Schools Procedural Directive

Student Suicide: Prevention, Intervention and Postvention

- General Provisions
 - Prevention
 - Professional Development for Staff
 - Prevention Programming for Students
 - Intervention Reporting, Assessment and External Referral
 - Parent/Legal Guardian Notification and Involvement
 - Follow Up Procedures
 - Postvention
 - Resources
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Prevention (Staff Training)

- All APS employees working with students complete an annual, district-provided training on suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention, and resources.
 - Additionally, school administration coordinates with the school counselor to provide an annual, site-based training to educate staff member about warning signs, the internal referral process and the administrative procedural directive.
 - School Counselors, Nurses and Social Workers are specially trained to follow the suicide intervention protocol.
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Prevention (Student Education)

- Suicide awareness and prevention is embedded in the core content health standards in the middle and high school health classes (7th & 9th grades).
- School counselors are required to provide evidenced-based suicide prevention lessons in at least one other grade level during middle and high school.
- **APS Peer Helpers** have an important role in suicide awareness and prevention in their school communities, too.



Intervention

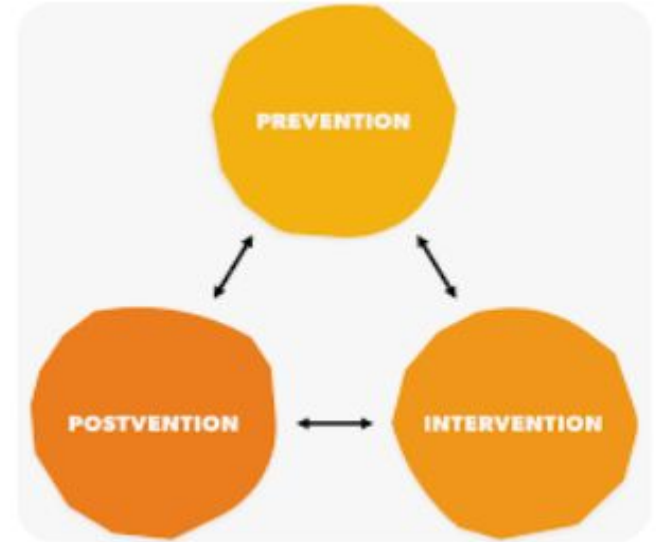
- APS school counselors, nurses and social workers are specially trained to complete the **APS (Same Day) Suicide Protocol** with any potentially suicidal student.
 - APS contracts with a qualified outside agency to provide a no cost, same day suicide risk assessment appointment for any APS student.
 - Parent/legal guardian are **always** made aware on the same day and offered referral options.
 - Parent/legal guardian referral options:
 - No cost, same day suicide risk assessment with our contracted outside agency
 - A suicide risk assessment with their student's own established mental health provider
 - A suicide risk assessment in a hospital setting
 - To decline the referral (may result in CYFD reporting)
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APS (Same Day) Suicide Protocol Data

- 2023-2024 School Year (as of April, '24)
 - 641 Same Day Protocols followed
 - 335 no cost, same day appointments with contracted provider
 - 101 own provider
 - 60 directly to a hospital setting
 - 145 declined
 - 2022-2023 School Year
 - 757 Same Day Protocols followed
 - 428 no cost, same day appointments with contracted provider
 - 126 own provider
 - 39 directly to a hospital setting
 - 164 declined
 - 2021-2022 School Year
 - 859 Same Day Protocols followed
 - 617 no cost, same day appointments with contracted provider
 - 79 own provider
 - 35 directly to a hospital setting
 - 128 declined
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Postvention (and Follow Up Procedures)

- When notified of a student suicide attempt, school counselors will meet with the student and parent/legal guardians to create a documented **Follow Up** plan of support for the student.
- **Postvention** also includes mindful planning of support for school communities when they have been impacted by a suicide loss, or other critical incident, to mitigate the impact.
- **Albuquerque Public Schools Postvention Guide** available to all school counselors to guide best practices.



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