



Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc.
1635 W. Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46222

Suicide Prevention Policy

Per IC 20-26-5-34.4, the purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. The National Strategy on Suicide Prevention indicates that preventing suicide depends upon a holistic approach that promotes healthy families, lifestyles, and communities. This policy is intended to be paired with other policies that support the socio-emotional and behavioral well-being of students.

Definitions

Goodwill Education Initiatives recognizes the definitions outlined by the National Strategy on Suicide Prevention:

- At-Risk - a student at-risk has made a suicide attempt, has the intent to die by suicide, or has displayed a significant change in behavior suggesting the onset of a deterioration of mental health
- Crisis Team - a multidisciplinary team consisting of school administrators, teachers, and life coaches trained in de-escalation strategies
- Postvention - a crisis intervention strategy designed to reduce the risk of suicide or harm, provide support for the student, and address the social stigma associated with suicide and mental health
- Self-Harm - behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or potential injury to oneself
- Suicide - death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior
- Suicide Attempt - a self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence that the person had at least some intent to kill himself or herself
- Suicidal Behavior - suicide attempts, intentional injury to oneself with some level of intent, developing a plan or strategy for suicide, gathering the means for a suicide plan, or any other overt action to end one's life
- Suicide Contagion - the process by which suicidal behavior or a suicide influences an increase in suicidal behavior in others

Risk Factors

Goodwill Education Initiatives acknowledges an increase in the risk of suicide for those experiencing any of the following situations as identified by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:

- Students living with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders
- Students who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide
- Students in out-of-home settings (i.e., juvenile justice systems, foster care, etc.)
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Students who identify as members of the LGBTQ population
- Students bereaved by suicide
- Students living with medical conditions and/or disabilities

Staff Development

Goodwill Education Initiatives has the following measures in place to ensure student safety and suicide prevention:

- Crisis Prevention Intervention - staff members are trained by a certified Nonviolent Crisis Prevention and Intervention trainer upon being hired to learn verbal de-escalation, physical de-escalation, prevention, and postvention strategies
- Mental Health First Aid - a program offered by Mental Health USA in which certified trainers teach staff members first aid and first response techniques for students in crisis, particularly those who may experience suicidal tendencies
- Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training - per IC 20-28-3-6, all Indiana teachers are required to complete Suicide Prevention training at least every 3 years starting June 30, 2018
- Life Coaches - each student is assigned a life coach to assist with scheduling duties as well as barrier removal, referral to outside agencies as needed, and to assist in developing a plan for students who may need it