



Suicide Prevention, Intervention, Parent Notification, and Postvention Policy

Responsible administrator: Executive Director

Primary student-response contacts: School counselor or school psychologist

Administrative backup: Executive Director or designee

1. Purpose

BRCS will respond promptly and carefully when a student may be at risk of suicide or self-harm. Employees are expected to recognize concerns, maintain supervision, obtain qualified assistance, make required reports, and avoid leaving a student without an appropriate safety response.

The school counselor or school psychologist is the primary contact. If neither is immediately available, the employee shall contact the Executive Director or designee.

2. Scope

This policy applies to concerns arising:

- At school;
- During school-sponsored activities;
- Through school communications or technology;
- During transportation or field trips; or
- At another time when the concern becomes known to a BRCS employee.

3. Warning Signs and Reportable Concerns

Employees shall take seriously any statement, writing, drawing, behavior, online post, communication, or information suggesting that a student:

- Is thinking about suicide;
- Wants to die or disappear;
- Has a suicide plan or access to lethal means;
- Has attempted suicide;
- Is engaging in significant self-harm;
- Is giving away possessions or saying goodbye;
- Expresses hopelessness or feeling like a burden;
- Has experienced a significant loss followed by concerning behavior; or
- May present an immediate danger to self.

Employees do not need proof or certainty before seeking help.



4. Immediate Employee Response

An employee who becomes aware of a suicide or serious self-harm concern shall:

1. **Remain with the student.** The student must be continuously supervised by a responsible BRCS employee until responsibility is transferred to the counselor, psychologist, administrator, parent, emergency responder, or other authorized person.
2. **Notify the school counselor or school psychologist immediately.** If neither is available, notify the Executive Director or designee.
3. **Call 911 when there is immediate danger.** This includes an attempt in progress, serious injury, possession of a weapon or lethal means, an imminent plan, or a medical emergency.
4. **Use direct, calm language.** An employee may ask limited questions needed to understand immediate safety, such as:
 - “Are you thinking about hurting yourself?”
 - “Are you thinking about suicide?”
 - “Do you have a plan?”
 - “Do you have access to what you would use?”
5. **Avoid promising confidentiality.** The employee should explain that the concern must be shared with people who can help keep the student safe.
6. **Report exact information.** Whenever possible, provide the student’s exact words, the employee’s direct observations, relevant communications, and the time and location of the concern.
7. **Follow the response team’s direction.** The employee shall remain available and provide additional factual information when asked.

Utah permits school employees to ask appropriate questions when they believe a student may be at risk of suicide, self-harm, or harm to others for purposes of referral and parent notification. A formal risk assessment should be completed only by trained and authorized personnel.

5. Prohibited or Unsafe Responses

An employee shall not:

- Leave the student alone;
- Send the student back to class without a completed handoff;
- Tell the student to “calm down” or assume the statement is attention-seeking;
- Promise secrecy;
- Ask classmates to supervise the student;
- Send the student home alone;
- Arrange release to an unauthorized person;
- Conduct a clinical assessment unless trained and assigned to do so;
- Contact the media or discuss the concern with uninvolved people; or
- Assume another person has reported the concern without confirming the handoff.



6. Counselor, Psychologist, and Administrative Response

The school counselor, school psychologist, Executive Director, or trained designee will:

1. Move the student to an appropriate supervised setting;
2. Conduct or arrange an approved suicide-risk assessment;
3. Determine whether emergency services are necessary;
4. Notify the parent or guardian as required;
5. Coordinate with emergency responders, crisis services, or outside providers when appropriate;
6. Provide required suicide-prevention and lethal-means-safety information;
7. Document notification, safety actions, referrals, and transfer of responsibility;
8. Determine a safe release process;
9. Develop a school reentry or follow-up plan when appropriate; and
10. Protect confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

7. Parent or Guardian Notification

When a student threatens suicide, BRCS will promptly notify the student's parent or guardian and maintain a record verifying the notification.

The parent will be provided with state-selected suicide-prevention information and information about limiting access to fatal means, including firearms and medication.

When a concern involves possible abuse, neglect, or a reason to believe immediate parent contact may increase danger, the school will promptly consult law enforcement or the Division of Child and Family Services and coordinate notification in a manner consistent with mandatory-reporting and safety requirements.

Utah requires parent notification, documentation, and provision of suicide-prevention and lethal-means information when a student threatens suicide.

8. Safe Release and Transfer of Responsibility

A student identified as being at risk will be released only to:

- A parent or legal guardian;
- An adult specifically authorized through the school's emergency process;
- Law enforcement;
- Emergency medical personnel; or
- Another authorized provider assuming responsibility.

The receiving person should be informed of the immediate concern and recommended next steps. When practicable, BRCS will obtain written or documented confirmation of the transfer.



A parent's arrival does not automatically end the school's emergency obligations. When there is an imminent danger or medical emergency, BRCS may contact emergency services even when a parent prefers another course.

9. 988 and SafeUT

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and SafeUT may be used for consultation and crisis support.

SafeUT provides free, confidential access to licensed counselors for Utah students, families, and school employees. These services do not replace 911 when there is immediate danger.

10. Documentation and Confidentiality

Documentation should be factual and include:

- The student's exact statements when possible;
- Direct observations;
- The time the concern was received;
- The people notified and time of notification;
- Parent-notification attempts and completion;
- Emergency or crisis contacts;
- Transfer or release information;
- Resources provided; and
- Planned follow-up.

Records will be maintained securely and shared only with people who have a legitimate educational, safety, legal, or operational need.

11. Reentry and Follow-Up

Following a suicide-related absence, attempt, hospitalization, or significant concern, the school counselor, psychologist, and administration will coordinate an appropriate reentry process.

The process may include:

- A parent meeting;
- Review of provider recommendations;
- A student safety plan;
- Identification of trusted adults;
- Academic support;
- Adjusted workload or deadlines;
- Supervision or check-ins;
- Emergency contact procedures; and
- A plan for responding to renewed concerns.



The school will not require unnecessary disclosure of private medical information.

12. Postvention

Following a suicide death or serious attempt affecting the school community, the Executive Director will activate the school's crisis-response process in consultation with qualified mental-health and emergency personnel.

Communications will use safe messaging, protect privacy, avoid speculation, and seek to reduce contagion risk. BRCS will identify students and employees who may need additional support and will coordinate resources for families and staff.

13. Training

BRCS will provide employees with periodic instruction on:

- Warning signs;
- Immediate response;
- Referral procedures;
- The roles of the counselor and psychologist;
- Parent notification;
- Documentation;
- 911, 988, and SafeUT;
- Safe messaging; and
- Postvention.

Licensed employees shall complete the required minimum two hours of youth-suicide-prevention professional development at least once every three years.

14. Legal References

- Utah Code §53E-9-203
- Utah Code §§53G-9-604 and 53G-9-702 through 53G-9-704
- Utah Administrative Code R277-620
- Utah Administrative Code R277-613
- Utah Administrative Code R277-217

Utah requires LEAs to implement appropriate suicide-prevention programming and establish a parent-notification policy.