

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain the scope of Valley Academy Charter School's (VAC) legal responsibility and procedures for students who school employees learn are at risk of suicide or engaged in self-harming behaviors. The policy includes parent notification about threats and incidents, staff training and community outreach opportunities for staff and parents.

II. Scope

Valley Academy suicide prevention training shall include the following subject matter for 7-8 grade students and for employees, as appropriate:

- a. Bullying and cyberbullying (see VAC Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy);
- b. Prevention of youth suicide;
- c. Increased risk of youth suicide for children who are not accepted by their families for various reasons;
- d. Youth suicide intervention;
- e. Postvention for family, students and faculty;
- f. Methods of strengthening the family; and
- g. Methods of strengthening a youth's relationships in the school and community
- h. Parent notification if:
 - i. a parent's student threatens to commit suicide or
 - ii. a parent's student is involved in an incident of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, abusive conduct or retaliation.

III. Policy/Procedure

Valley Academy Charter shall designate a suicide prevention coordinator (School Counselor).

- a. The school suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy for the school.
- b. The school suicide prevention coordinator will act as a point of contact in each school concern relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation.
- c. All staff members shall report students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to the school suicide prevention coordinator.

IV. Staff Professional Development:

All staff will receive annual professional development on

- a. Suicide prevention and how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide;
- b. Help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.

V. Publication, Distribution and Community Outreach:

This policy will be distributed annually and included in student and teacher handbooks and on the school website. Consistent with Utah law, VAC staff and parents shall also be invited to participate in a suicide prevention parent seminar held by Washington County School District (UCA 53G-9-703(1)(d))