

**SUICIDE**

**AWARENESS**

**AND**

**PREVENTION PLAN**

Fort Sage Unified School District

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: JUNE \_\_, 2017

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# **INSERT BOARD POLICY**

**BP 5141.52**

**INSERT ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGULATION**

**5141.52**

## PREVENTION

Fort Sage Unified School District recognizes that prevention of youth suicide, violence, and substance abuse and the early identification and treatment of mental health disorders are most effective when students, staff, parents, and community members have access to prevention information and resources.

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR STAFF SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Research identifying risk factors, such as previous suicide attempt(s), history of depression or mental illness, substance use problems, family history of suicide or violence, feelings of isolation, interpersonal conflicts, a recent severe stressor loss, family instability, and other factors
2. Warning signs that may indicate suicidal intentions, including changes in students' appearance, personality, or behavior
  - Youth bereaved by suicide
  - Youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse
  - Homeless youth
  - LGBTQ youth
  - Youth in the juvenile justice or welfare system
  - Native American youth
3. Research-based instructional strategies for teaching the suicide prevention curriculum and promoting mental and emotional health
4. School and community resources and services
5. District procedures for intervening when a student attempts, threatens, or discloses the desire to commit suicide

A training will be provided annually for all teachers and staff:

Keenan Link: [www.keenan.safeschools.com](http://www.keenan.safeschools.com) – Youth Suicide: Awareness and Prevention

More information on evidence-based programs and practices can be found in [SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices](#).

The Trevor Project can be found at: [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)

## INTERVENTION

The following process should be followed when a staff member becomes aware that a student is experiencing a crisis that may involve risk of harm to self or others:

- When a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, he/she shall promptly notify the Superintendent, Principal, or designee, who shall then notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible. The student may be referred to mental health resources in the school or community.
- Students shall be encouraged to notify a teacher, principal, counselor, or other adult when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.

### IMMINENT RISK

- There is immediate danger to the student's self or others (for example, possible presence of a weapon or other means the student intends to use to harm self or others).
- There is a suicide attempt in progress (for example, the student has taken a drug or medication overdose).

The staff member who suspects or has knowledge of imminent risk will do the following:

- Provide for continuous supervision of the student at risk until an emergency responder arrives, keeping personal safety in mind. Evaluate the environment for safety and remove access to methods or lethal means.
- Notify the administrator or designee.

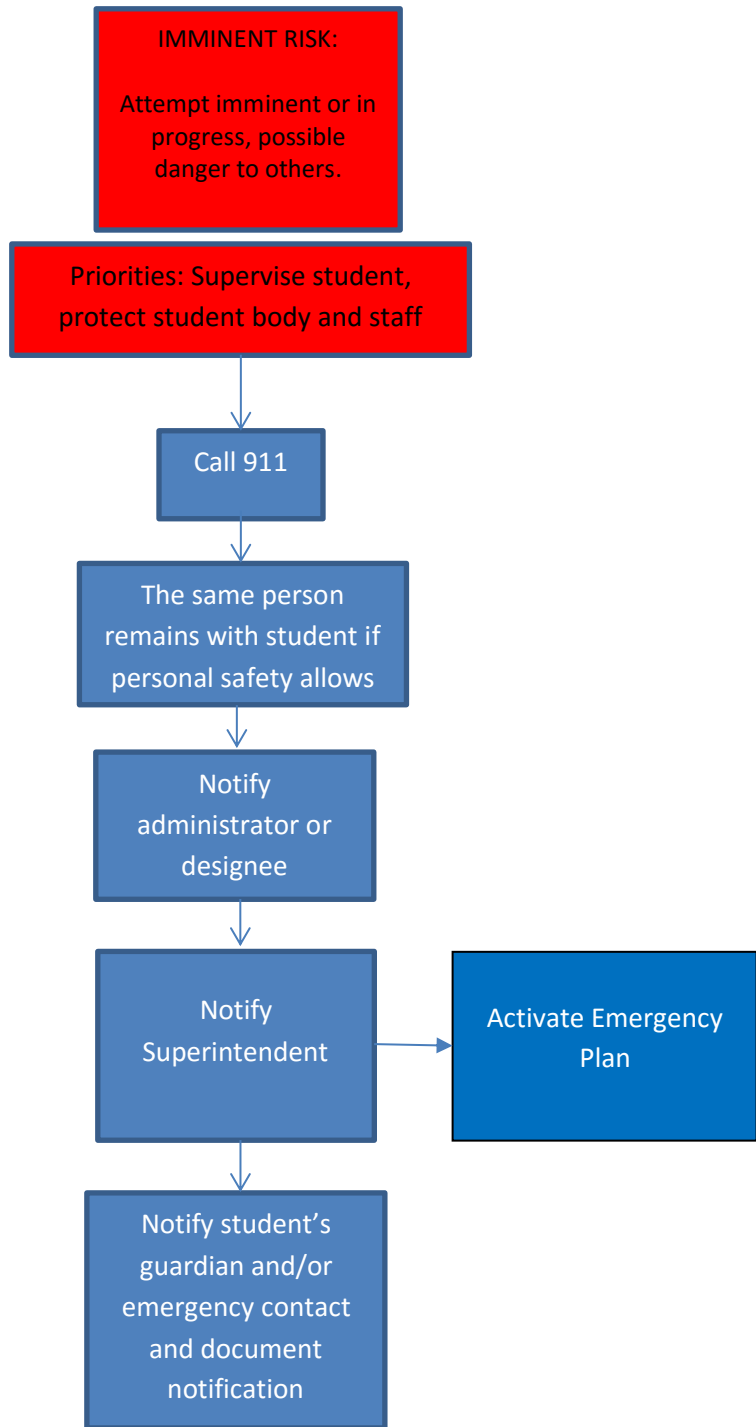
The administrator or other designee will do the following:

- Call 911 or designate a person to call. Be mindful that in the presence of a weapon or danger to others, emergency medical personnel will need the scene secured by law enforcement personnel before they can intervene.
- Notify the Superintendent.

Depending on the situation, the administrator or designee will:

- Even with no danger to others, if a suicide attempt is imminent or in progress, other students need to be removed quickly and calmly from the vicinity. (Execute emergency plan.)
- Notify the student's guardian and/or emergency contact and document the time and content of the conversation.
- Fill out the district's incident report forms.

CHART 1: IMMIDENT RISK



A school employee shall act only within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential or license.

#### AT RISK

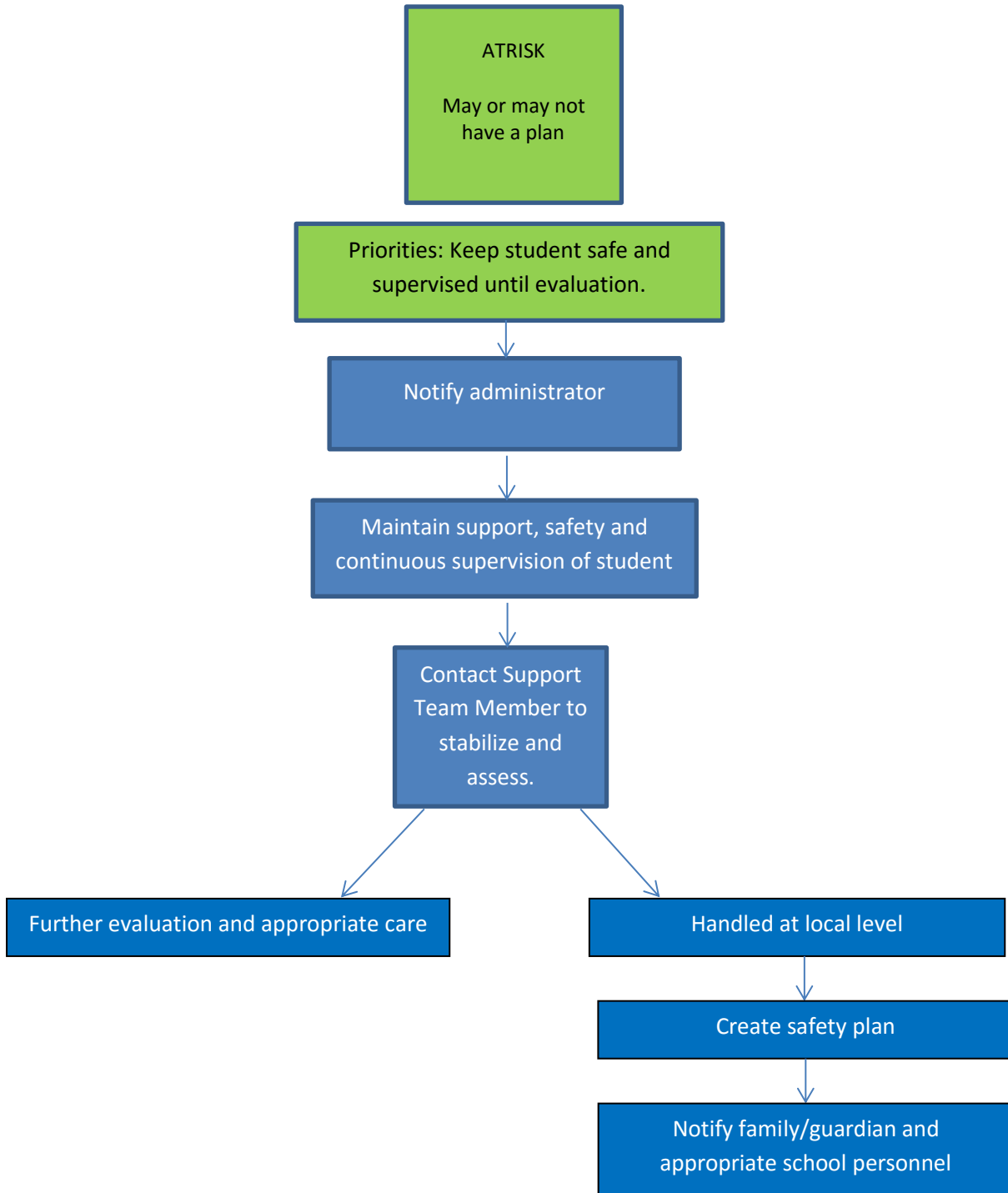
- The student identifies thoughts of death but has no plan, intent to die, or suicidal behavior.
- The student identifies thoughts of death and may have a plan, intent to die or suicidal behavior.
- The student is experiencing some stressors.

The administrator or designee will do the following:

- Remain with the student and provide support, safety, and continuous supervision.
- Contact support team members (school counselor, behavioral counselor, school psychologist, Lassen County Behavioral Health).
- The administrator must be notified if the student will be leaving school grounds.
- If the assessment is that the student needs additional evaluation, appropriate arrangements will be made.



CHART 2: AT RISK



A school employee shall act only within the authorization and scope of the employee’s credential or license.

# POSTVENTION

Fort Sage Unified School District recognizes that the death of a student, whether by suicide or other means, is a crisis that affects the entire school and community. In the event of a student's death, it is critical that the school's response be swift, consistent, and intended to protect the student body and community. In the case of a death by suicide, other concerns such as the prevention of [suicide contagion](#) will be taken into account.

## **CONFIRMING THE NEWS AND CONVENING THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM**

Upon receiving news of a student's death, including an unconfirmed rumor, a staff member must immediately contact the Superintendent, Principal, and/or designee. Contact must be made whether this is during or outside school hours.

- The Superintendent, Principal, or designee will contact:
  - Lassen County Office of Education (LCOE) County Superintendent of Schools
  - In the absence of Superintendent, the Lead Teachers will be the Superintendent Designee at their sites.
  
- The LCOE County Superintendent of Schools will convene the educational support team which may include:
  - Administrators
  - Behavioral Counselors
  - School Psychologists