

## STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

The Metropolitan School District of Washington Township Board of Education recognizes that suicide is one of the leading causes of death for Indiana youth. This policy is meant to increase child suicide awareness and prevention. The Board believes there must be a partnership between families, the community, and MSD of Washington Township (the “District”).

To that end, the Cooperation cooperates with the larger community including suicide prevention services. Information regarding such suicide prevention services located in our community can be found at <https://www.msdt.k12.in.us/mental-health-resources/>. Further, information regarding crisis intervention referral is available to students, parents, and School District employees. Families may seek referrals for outside mental health services by reaching out to their student’s school counselor or school social worker.

The District provides counseling services for students and families related to suicide prevention. All students have access to a school counselor and/or school social worker, who provide short-term solution-focused counseling services and use a suicide prevention intervention procedure which includes the following:

Step 1: Stabilization

Step 2: Assess the Risk

Step 3: Take Appropriate Action Based on the Risk

Step 4: Communicate with Appropriate Parties

Step 5: Follow up

The District recognizes the relationship between suicide and drug and alcohol use. The plan, training, and any other program authorized under this policy shall increase awareness of this correlation.

The District shall provide evidence-based training to MSD of Washington Township employees consistent with Indiana law. All school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists engage in regular training as well as monitoring of their suicide prevention efforts.

The training will address warning signs and tendencies that may evidence a student is considering suicide.

Consistent with Indiana law, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop a plan to assist survivors of attempted suicide and to assist students and District employees to cope with a suicide or attempted suicide. The Superintendent or his/her designee may develop any other program or activity appropriate to increase awareness and prevention of child suicide.

I.C. 20-26-5-34.4

I.C. 20-26-3-6

MSD of Washington Township

Adopted 2/28/24

Revised [date]