

SAFETY MATTERS

RISK
MANAGEMENT
NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

SEPT. 04, 2026

- Know the Signs
- Follow Your Organization's Suicide Prevention Policy
- Support Resources

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

OBJECTIVE To increase the awareness of the resources available to help with suicide prevention efforts.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time for schools and community colleges to strengthen supportive environments, encourage open conversations about mental health, and ensure students and employees know where to seek help. Suicide is preventable, and educational institutions play an important role by promoting connectedness, recognizing warning signs, reducing stigma, and connecting individuals with timely assistance.

Students may experience social isolation, academic pressure, trauma, and other challenges that affect their mental health and well-being. Schools and community colleges can help by fostering connection, promoting a sense of belonging, and creating a culture in which asking for help is encouraged. Evidence-based approaches, including peer support, mental health education, staff training, and clear referral pathways, can help campus communities recognize warning signs and connect individuals with appropriate support. Through a coordinated and compassionate approach to prevention, educational institutions can create environments where students feel seen, valued, and supported.





KNOW THE SIGNS

While there is no definitive list of warning signs, some are particularly common among teens and young adults. Keep an eye out for these warning signs:

- Withdrawal
- Reckless behavior
- Personality change
- Substance abuse
- Neglect of personal appearance
- Loss of interest
- Giving away belongings
- Removing all photos from social media
- Posts on social media that romanticize suicide and deaths

FOLLOW YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

California school districts are required to have suicide prevention policies in place, as outlined in Ed. Code 215. Districts should review their existing board policies and administrative regulations to ensure they address the needs of high-risk groups:

- Youth bereaved by suicide
- Youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse disorders
- Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings such as foster care
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth

While Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) are not required to have a suicide prevention policy under Ed. Code 215, it is good practice to include a suicide prevention plan under the Student Health Services policy.

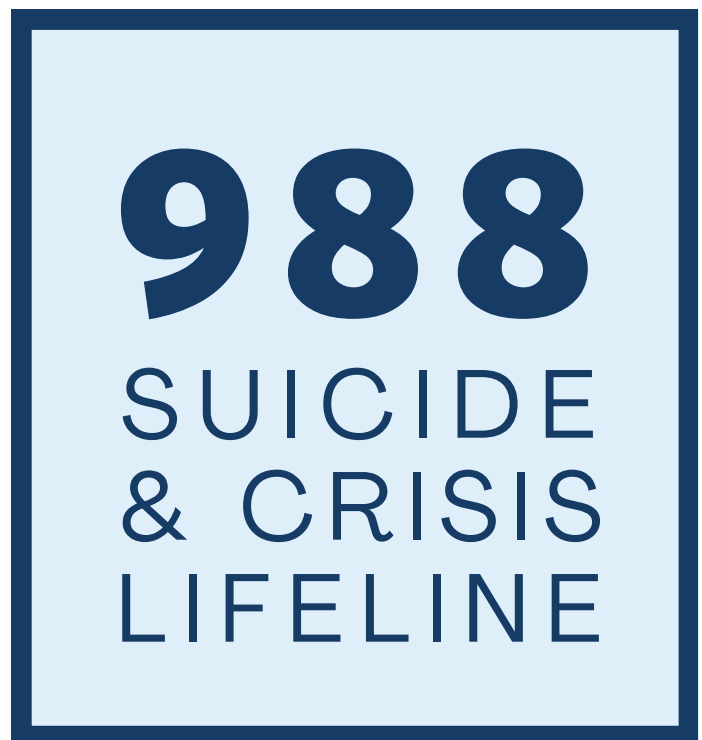
Both institutions of higher education and school districts that serve grades 7-12 are required to print the following suicide prevention resources on student ID cards per Ed. Code 215.5:

Suicide Prevention Policy:

- California LEAs are required to maintain a suicide prevention policy consistent with Ed. Code § 215. The policy should address prevention, intervention, postvention, staff training, referral procedures, and the needs of high-risk student groups. LEAs should also review and update their policies at least every five years, and beginning on or after July 1, 2026, include crisis intervention protocols aligned with CDE model policy guidance.

Student ID Card Resources:

- For schools serving grades 7-12 that issue student identification cards, California law requires the inclusion of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233. Schools may also include a QR code linking to county mental health resources. Beginning July 1, 2026, public schools serving grades 7-12 must also include The Trevor Project hotline and text line: Call 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678-678





Support Resources

In addition to the national hotlines, there are several local resources within the Inland Empire that can offer treatment and assistance to students:

Riverside County

CARES Line (Community, Access, Referral, Evaluation, and Support)
800-499-3008 | up2riverside.org

Information and referrals for Medi-Cal and Riverside County Health Plan beneficiaries seeking mental health services

Riverside County Regional Medical Center ETS

951-358-4881

24/7 clinical evaluation, crisis intervention, and referrals for psychiatric hospitalization as needed

San Bernardino County

County of San Bernardino Access Unit
888-743-1478

24/7 call center comprised of mental health professionals

Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT)

Call 800-398-0018 or text 909-420-0560

Community-based mobile crisis response program for children experiencing a psychiatric emergency, available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year

Crisis Walk in Centers (CWIC)

CWIC High Desert: 760-245-8837 (24/7)

CWIC Morongo Basin: 760-365-2233 (24/7)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

24/7 support at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Spanish support at 1-888-628-9454



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

Free suicide prevention modules geared toward educators:

[CDC Suicide Prevention Resources](#)

[Professional Development Series: California | The Jason Foundation, Inc.](#)

[Youth Suicide Prevention- Mental Health
\(CA Department of Education\)](#)

[Suicide Prevention Awareness for Parents/Caregivers](#)

[Suicide Prevention Resource Center — Colleges and Universities](#)

[Suicide Prevention Month Materials - NAMI](#)

Vector Solutions Training Available:

Recognizing and Preventing Student Suicide (EDU)

This California Schools JPA Safety Matters is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice. This document and sign-in sheet are intended for general awareness and do not replace required or district-approved suicide prevention training, crisis-response protocols, or professional mental health guidance.





SIGN-IN SHEET

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Facilitator: _____ Facilitator's Signature: _____

Date: _____ Organization: _____ Department: _____

Participants:

Name: _____	Signature: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____
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