

## Policy 5.20- Student Mental Health Crisis Response Policy

### 1. Purpose

This Policy seeks to strengthen the School District of Palm Beach County (District) d9Thts 0.196 0.7es 0.7t 0.7008 Th

d. **“Developmental Disabilities”** - §. 393.063(9) [This is the statutory definition of comprehensive assessment. The definition of DD is (12) of this statute.], §.393.0641(1) [This statute doesn't exist.], F.S. – Developmental disability ~~is~~ means a disorder or syndrome that is attributable to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, or Prader-Willi syndrome; that manifests before the age of 18; and that constitutes a substantial disability that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely.

e. **“Imminent Risk of Harm to Self or Others”** means there is a significant, probable, imminent threat that, without care or treatment, a person will cause serious bodily harm to themselves or others in the near future and the person has the ability to affect such harm.

f. **“Serious Bodily Harm”** means bodily injury which involves either a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss of impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

g. **“Parent” or “Parents”** means either or both biological or adoptive parent(s) of the student, the student's legal guardian, a person in a parental relationship to the student, or a person exercising supervisory a

including SIS, or other known emergency contact, including but not limited to, telephone calls, text messages, emails, and voice mail messages following the decision to initiate an involuntary examination of the student.

- ii. Document the method and number of attempts made to contact the student's parent or guardian, or other known emergency contact, and the outcome of each attempt.
- iii. A principal or his or her designee who successfully notifies any other known emergency contact may share only the information necessary to alert such contact that the parent or guardian must be contacted. All such information must be in compliance with federal and state law.

m. **"Mobile Crisis Response Service"** means a non-district operated nonresidential crisis service available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week which provides immediate intensive assessments and interventions, including screening for admission into a mental health designated receiving facility, for the purpose of identifying appropriate treatment services.

n. **Self-Injurious Behavior (SIB)** is any chronic behavior that results in injury to the person's own body, including, but not limited to, self-hitting, head banging, self-biting, scratching, and the ingestion of harmful or potentially harmful nutritive or nonnutritive substances. The chronic nature of this behavior should be taken into consideration.

o. **"Transport"** means transportation pursuant to the Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Transportation plan, developed and implemented by Palm Beach County pursuant to Fla. Stat. §394.462.

p. **"CAPE Team"** means the District's Crisis, Assessment, Prevention, Education and Support Team located within the Department of Behavioral and Mental Health. Each CAPE team is comprised of a mental health professional, a school psychologist, behavioral health professionals, and ESE department representatives knowledgeable about developmental disabilities. The CAPE Team also serves as the District's Crisis Mobile Response Team.

## 5. Prevention.

All school-based employees shall attend training annually on the continuum of behavioral and mental health services that are offered to students in schools and the community. Additionally, school based employees shall attend annual in-service training required by the Florida Department of Education pursuant to § 1012.584 and annual training on Policy 5.20. Annual training on Policy 5.20 shall include information on the exclusions for eligibility for involuntary examination including but not limited to developmental disability as well as methods of discerning whether behaviors are a manifestation of one of the excluded conditions or are a manifestation of a mental illness.

School Police Officers shall be required to participate in training to address "The Florida Mental Health Act" also referred to as "Baker Act" in compliance with Florida law certifications and recertifications standards, Florida statutory training requirements, best practices training, disability training, and District training as identified. In addition,

expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training must improve the officer's knowledge and skills as a first responder to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety. Each sworn law enforcement officer shall also complete annual training on Policy 5.20 as well as General Order 11.17 and any other District Police General Orders or Operational Orders that relate to the Florida Mental Health Act, restraint and/or seclusion of students, and transportation of students. Annual training on Policy 5.20 shall include information on the exclusions for eligibility for involuntary examination including but not limited to developmental disability as well as methods of discerning whether behaviors are a manifestation of one of the excluded conditions or are a manifestation of a mental illness.

In addition, student identification cards issued for students in grades 6-12, will include the telephone numbers for national suicide hotlines and text lines.

#### **6. Intervention.**

Any employee who has reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of harm to self or others shall report such belief to the principal or designee. Belief that a student is at imminent risk of harm to self or others must be evidenced by recent behavior and shall include, but not be limited to, the student verbalizing a threat including verbal, written, or conveyed through social media; evidence of self-harm, or if a student self-

Threat Assessment Team. **Nothing in this policy**



a. The School District's Police Department will engage in ongoing comprehensive monitoring of the transportation from schools, school transportation, or school

**11. Postvention.**

- a. All students transported for an involuntary examination



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