**Timpanogos Academy Suicide Prevention - Mental Awareness Policy**

**Policy TA5181**

**Approved: 8-8-19**

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all Timpanogos Academy students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

Timpanogos Academy:

(a) recognizes that physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student’s educational outcomes,

(b) further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people,

(c) has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide, and

(d) acknowledges the school’s role in providing an environment which helps to foster positive youth development.

**Prevention**

1. Policy Implementation: The principal will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy for Timpanogos Academy.
2. All staff members shall report students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to the principal.
3. All staff will receive annual professional development on risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention.
4. Classroom teachers will emphasize the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.

**Assessment and Referral**

When a student is identified by a staff person as potentially suicidal, i.e., verbalizes about suicide, presents overt risk factor, the act of self-harm occurs, or a student self-refers, the identifying staff member will:

1. Continuously supervise the student to ensure their safety
2. Provide information to the principal of the concern as soon as possible

The principal will:

1. Contact the student’s parent or guardian as soon as possible
2. After consulting with appropriate school personnel and parents/guardians, if deemed necessary, a mental health plan will be developed.

**In-School Suicide Attempts**

In the case of an in-school suicide attempt, the health and safety of the student is paramount. In these situations:

1. First aid will be rendered until medical personnel arrives
2. School staff will supervise the student to ensure their safety
3. Staff will move all other students out of the immediate area as soon as possible
4. Staff will immediately notify the principal or designee
5. The principal or designee will contact the student’s parent or guardian
6. If deemed necessary, outside counseling services will be brought in to help students process

**Re-Entry Procedure**

For students returning to school after a mental health crisis (e.g., suicide attempt or psychiatric hospitalization), the principal, or designee will meet with the student’s parent or guardian, and if appropriate, the student to discuss re-entry and appropriate next steps to ensure the student’s readiness for return to school.

1. The school’s mental health professional or other designee will be identified to coordinate with the student, their parent or guardian, and any outside mental health care providers
2. The parent or guardian will provide documentation from a mental health care provider that the student has undergone examination and that they are no longer a danger to themselves or others
3. The designated staff person will periodically check in with the student to help the student readjust to the school community and address any ongoing concerns

**Other Mental Health Concerns**

Should an event occur that causes mental health concerns (i.e. national or local tragedies, death of current or former classmate or school employee etc.), counseling will be made available if necessary.