



SECTION IV: STUDENTS

POLICY 4450

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS PROTOCOL

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A mental health crisis is a behavioral, emotional, or psychiatric situation which results in a high level of stress or anxiety for a student and which cannot be resolved without intervention.

Mental health crises may be identified by school administrators, teachers, support employees, and school-based mental health professionals.

As required by OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-159, the District maintains a protocol for responding to students in mental health crisis with the goal of preventing student suicide, self-harm, and harm to others.

The District's protocol is maintained in partnership with local mental health treatment providers certified by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The district ensures that at least one Provider Partner meets the following criteria:

- A. Has the ability to serve all school-aged children regardless of insurance status; and
- B. Has the ability and certification to provide mental health crisis services in the region where students attend school.

In response to an immediate or potential mental health crisis, the district will notify the student's parent or guardian as soon as possible. Except in cases of immediate or life-threatening danger to self or others, the district will seek parent or guardian consent in order to facilitate access to a mental healthcare provider who can assess the student and provide recommendations regarding their needs.

The school district and partner organizations will comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") privacy requirements when addressing student mental health crises.

The Board of Education and each of the District's Provider Partner(s) will enter into an annual working agreement establishing all obligations of the parties under the established Protocol and a strategy for regularly reviewing its effectiveness using anonymous, nonidentifiable data.

Not less than every two years, the District and its Provider Partner(s) will jointly review the Protocol and Working Agreement and consider whether updates to the Protocol are necessary to better meet the needs of students. This process will include a review of information gathered from the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment Survey or an alternative survey conducted by the District as provided for in OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-158.

The District will submit the most recent version of its Protocol and Working Agreement to the Oklahoma State Department of Education, which will in turn submit those documents to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. These agencies may



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require revisions to the Protocol in order to ensure compliance with applicable laws/regulations and/or established evidence-based practices.

The District will provide administrators, teachers, support employees and school-based mental health providers with ready access to and regular training regarding the Protocol.

Reference: OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, §§ 24-158 and 24-159. OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-194.3.

Source: *Broken Arrow Board of Education policy adoption, November 7, 2022.*
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