

## **JLDBB - SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY**

The School Board is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state, and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; to establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt (“postvention”); and to promote access to suicide awareness, prevention and postvention resources.

### **A. The Founders Academy Public Charter School [Suicide Prevention Plan](#) and Biennial Review**

The Dean shall develop and provide to the Board for approval, a coordinated written Founders Academy Public Charter School [Suicide Prevention Plan](#) (the “Plan”) to include guidelines, protocols and procedures with the objectives of prevention, risk assessment, intervention and response to youth suicides and suicide attempts.

#### **Specific Requirements for Plan Terms:**

The Founders Academy Public Charter School [Suicide Prevention Plan](#) shall include terms relating to:

1. Suicide prevention (risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, referrals);
2. Response to in-or-out-of-school student suicides or suicide attempts (postvention, suicide contagion);
3. Student education regarding safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, recognition of risk factors, and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide; and help seeking strategies;
4. Training of staff, designated volunteers, and contracted personnel on the issues of youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention, and resources available within the school and community;
5. Confidentiality considerations;
6. Designation of any personnel, in addition to the Charter School Crisis Response Coordinator and Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, to

- act as points of contact when students are believed to be at an elevated risk of suicide;
7. Information regarding state and community resources for referral, crisis intervention, and other related information;
  8. Dissemination of the Plan or information about the Plan to students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers;
  9. Promotion of cooperative efforts between the Founders Academy Public Charter School and the community suicide prevention program personnel;
  10. Such include such other provisions deemed appropriate to meet the objectives of this Policy (e.g., student handbook language, reporting processes, “postvention” strategies, memorial parameters, etc.).

### **Biennial Review:**

No less than once every two years, the Dean of School, in consultation with the Charter School Crisis Response Coordinator, and Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, and with input and evidence from community health or suicide prevention organizations, and District health, and guidance personnel, shall update the Founders Academy Public Charter School [Suicide Prevention Plan](#), and present the same to the Board for review. Such Plan updates shall be submitted to the Board in time for appropriate budget consideration.

### **B. Crisis Response Coordinator and Liaisons**

#### **Charter School Crisis Response Coordinator:**

[[The Dean of School shall appoint a] OR {the \_\_\_\_ is designated as the}] Charter School Crisis Response Coordinator, who, under the direction of the Dean of School shall be responsible for:

1. annual updating of (i) State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention information, and (ii) names and contact information of Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, for inclusion in student handbooks and on the Founders Academy Public Charter School’s website;

2. developing - or assisting individual teachers with the development – of age appropriate student educational programming, such that all students receive information in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help;
3. developing or assisting in the development of the annual staff training required under section C of this policy;
4. Such other duties as referenced in this Policy or as assigned by the Dean of School.

### **Building Suicide Prevention Liaison:**

The Director of Student and Academic Affairs, or, in his/her absence, the building principal, shall be designated as the Building Suicide Prevention Liaison and shall serve as the in building point-of-contact person when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide. Employees who have reason to believe a student is at risk of suicide, or is exhibiting risk factors for suicide, shall report that information to the Building Liaison, who shall, immediately or as soon as possible, establish and implement a response plan with the Charter School Crisis Response Coordinator.

### **C. Annual Staff Training**

The Dean of School shall assure that beginning with the 2020-21 school year, all school building faculty and staff, designated volunteers, and any other personnel who have regular contact with students, including contracted personnel or third-party employees, receive at least two hours of training in suicide awareness and prevention. Such training may include such matters as youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, intervention, response procedures, referrals, and postvention and local resources.

### **D. Dissemination**

Student handbooks and the Founders Academy Public Charter School's website will be updated each year with the contact information for the Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, State and community crisis or

intervention referral intervention resources. The Founders Academy Public Charter School [Suicide Prevention Plan](#) will be made available on the Founders Academy Public Charter School's website.

Founders Academy Public Charter School Policy History:

Policy Committee Approved: May 18, 2020

Board of Trustees Adopted: June 17, 2020

New Hampshire School Boards Association Sample Policy JLDDBB

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Legal References:

### **RSA 193-J: Suicide Prevention Education**

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

### **Other Resources:**

- The New Hampshire Department of Education's Bureau of Student Wellness, Office of Social and Emotional Wellness (OSEW), provides resources and technical assistance to school Founders Academy Public Charter Schools to work collaboratively with their community to respond to the needs of students through a multi-tiered system of support for behavioral health and wellness. For further information see: [www.nhstudentwellness.org](http://www.nhstudentwellness.org)
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) - <https://www.afsp.org>
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center - <http://www.sprc.org>
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – <https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>
- The Trevor Project - <https://www.thetrevorproject.org>

When adopting this sample or variation of the same, a Founders Academy Public Charter School should not include the NHSBA history or NHSBA policy notes appearing below. The Founders Academy Public Charter School should,

to the extent possible, include its own adoption/revision history, as well as the legal references and disclaimer as indicated above.

NHSBA history: New policy, November 2019.

NHSBA note, November 2019 This sample policy is in response to 2019 N.H. Laws Ch. 315 (SB 282), codified as RSA 193-J, which, among other things, requires that “each school Founders Academy Public Charter School ... shall develop a policy that guides the development and implementation of a coordinated plan to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.” The statute then includes several required and discretionary policy components. As with other instances of recent legislation (e.g., 2018’s HB1612 & 2019’s SB 263), SB 282 contemplates Board development of a policy to direct the development of the plan, not the plan itself. This sample policy is intended to assist that process by coordinating the requirements of the statute with the framework with some of the model “policies” created by various suicide prevention/crisis intervention organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.