

Suicide Prevention Guidelines

Checklist 5



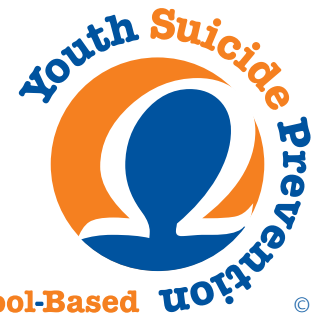
ORANGE COUNTY • NEW YORK

Checklist 5

This checklist provides administrators and educators with an efficient inventory of what empirical research and best practice suggests as important considerations when evaluating the status of a school's suicide prevention program. This checklist can be used to quickly evaluate what services and policies your school already has in place (indicated by a "yes") or what services and policies your school may be lacking that may need to be implemented or revised (indicated by a "no"). This checklist corresponds to *Issue Brief 5: Suicide Prevention Guidelines*, which provides a more in depth and detailed discussion concerning particular prevention guidelines and issues mentioned in this checklist. The intent of the Issue Brief is to provide research-based and best-practice suggestions for how a school may wish to address the issue of adolescent suicidal behavior and what research suggests about each strategy available to schools. The intention of the Issue Brief is not to provide definitive declarations for what schools should do because each school will vary in their ability to implement and maintain suggestions mentioned in the Issue Brief.

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your school have written policies and procedures in place to effectively respond to students who may be at-risk for suicidal behaviors and/or thoughts? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is your school's suicide prevention policy disseminated to all school faculty and staff? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your school have established collaborative relationships with community resources such as hospitals, mental health organizations, and helplines? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your school provide training for all school personnel about suicide prevention? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are your faculty and staff able to identify a student at risk for suicide and follow the school policy? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your school have an established in-school response team that is qualified to respond to a student potentially at-risk for suicidal behaviors and/or thoughts? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your school provide opportunities for parents to become involved in the suicide prevention practices and activities your school provides? |

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School-Based [©] Guide Orange County, New York



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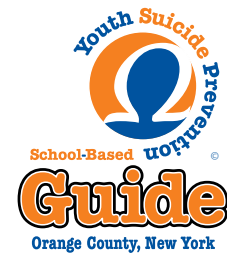
This publication is also available on-line as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file: <http://www.ouboces.org> and <http://www.orangecountygov.com>
Select County Departments, Department of Mental Health

Checklist 5 continued

Yes No

- If your school utilizes a suicide prevention curriculum approach with students, is it provided in a prolonged (i.e., multiple-session) manner?
- Does your school educate students about the facts of suicide?
- Does your school provide information to students about social skills, coping skills, and appropriate problem solving strategies?
- Does your school educate students about help seeking (when to seek help for themselves or someone else and who they should contact for help)?
- Does your school screen students in order to identify students who may be at-risk for suicide, in order to get them help?
- Does your school provide peer assistance programs for students?
- Does your school provide students with information about community resources, such as a crisis center that they may use if they feel unsafe or potentially suicidal?
- Does your school provide a safe environment for students?
- Does your school provide opportunities for all student to become involved in school activities?
- Does your school attempt to foster a feeling of connectedness between the school and the students?
- Does your school have postvention policies and procedures in place that explicitly detail what to do following a suicidal crisis in order to avoid copycat behaviors?
- Does your school inform parents on the importance of restricting a students access to weapons, particularly firearms?
- Does your school have policies in place that provide guidelines on how to effectively deal with the media should a suicidal event take place?
- Does your school have the support of the school board, administrators, teachers, parents, and community professionals?
- Does your school provide a comprehensive prevention plan: one that utilizes more than one prevention strategy and one which provides an established response plan should a suicidal crisis occur?

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