

Suicide Risk Assessment System

Level 1 Elementary Protocol - Student Interview

**Concepts to Emphasize:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **All people have emotional highs and lows** | **Crisis will pass in time** |
| **Problem solving is possible, one issue at a time** | **There is hope for the future** |
| **People care** | **They are not alone** |

**Step 1:**

**DIRECTIONS FOR CASE MANAGERS:**

**This interview ideally is to be conducted by a school counselor to initiate the Level 1 Assessment Protocol. However, in the case of a counselor not being readily available, an administrator *should* conduct the interview. Address the following questions through an interview or open-ended inquiry with the student or students of concern (who is/are in a situation regarding suicidal ideation and/or behavior). Do NOT ask the student to read and complete the questions by themselves.**

**Address the student and describe the perceived concern regarding suicide that has been brought to your attention. Explain our obligation and responsibility to assess and provide support to all situations that may be dangerous for the student, other students, and/or staff.**

**Although the student can provide crucial information regarding intent, if the student is unwilling or denies intent, consider gathering information from other sources.**

**The following is an examination of current circumstances and as these circumstances change, so too does the risk potential. Therefore, review the results of this interview while being mindful of supervision, intervention, and the passage of time. Each question is a prompt for exploration of circumstances that may involve the escalation of suicidal ideation. The Level 1 Protocol-Student Interview is also the method of determining if there is a need to request a more extensive Level 2 Assessment by community mental health providers (Step 4). If consultation is needed regarding this process, please contact NWRESD School Safety & Prevention at 503-614-1263 or** [**schoolsafety@nwresd.k12.or.us**](mailto:schoolsafety@nwresd.k12.or.us)

**Student’s Name:**  **Student ID:** **Student DOB:**   **School:**   **Grade:**

**Student Preferred Pronouns**:       **IEP\*** No  Yes **504** No  Yes **Date:**

**\*If student has an IEP, a Sped representative should be consulted and a part of safety planning if applicable**

**Administrator - SRA Case Manager’s Name**:      

**Person conducting the Interview**: **Position****Email Address:**

* Consult with Administrator. Name:       Date:       Time:
* Notify parent or guardian of imminent concerns. Parent/Guardian contacted.
* Name:       Date:       Time:
* Parent Contact Information:
* Summarize discussion with parent/guardian:

**Reason for Level 1:**      

**Is the risk to the student imminent?** No  Yes

* Do not leave student unattended at any time.
* If Risk is imminent or anyone is in immediate danger, call law enforcement (911).

**Step 2:** An equity lens has been applied to the safety and support response process. The lens identified concerns regarding underserved and underrepresented populations that lack confidence in support systems and, thus, tend to underreport. Be sure to approach information sources with cultural sensitivity and explore all leads. Provide assurance that safety, inclusion, and connection are the focus. The lens also identified concerns for bias toward underserved populations and minoritized groups that may lead to overreaction or unnecessary discipline. Focus on facts and behavior unique to the situation. Avoid assumptions and/or personalizing language and behavior.

**INTERVIEW WITH THE STUDENT**: **Ask the following questions through conversation or direct inquiry.**

**\*Note: If the student references cutting or similar self-harm, explore circumstances. While this is a concerning behavior, it may or may not be a risk factor relevant to suicidal ideation.**

1. Students description of the problem (using student’s words)
2. Tell me how things are going for you. How is school? Home? Friends?
3. Are there people or things that are causing you to worry or hurting you (bullying, family, friends, school staff, fear for your safety, a loss or failure, societal, sexual/gender identity/preference, schoolwork)?  No  Yes
4. Have you ever wished you were dead?  No  Yes
5. Have you had thoughts about killing yourself?  No  Yes

(**If the answer is “no” to question 4 and 4a, skip to question 12**)

1. When was the last time you had thoughts about killing yourself (24 hours, week, month)?
2. When you thought about killing yourself, did you think that this is something that you really might do? This is different from having the thoughts but knowing you would not do anything about it.  No  Yes.
3. Have you planned out how you would do it?  No  Yes. When?       What was your plan (assessing for acquiring a weapon, medication, giving away belongings, saying goodbye, etc.)?
4. Do you have access to any of the things that you talked about in your plan?  No  Yes
5. (**\*If the student has a plan**) Are you having thoughts of killing yourself right now?  No  Yes       when?
6. Have you ever tried to kill yourself?  No  Yes (If yes, what happened…how, when, and where?)
7. Are you having a hard time falling asleep or staying asleep?  No  Yes
8. Have you been eating a lot more or a lot less?  No  Yes
9. Have you been wanting to spend time by yourself or with others? Have you lost the desire to do things that you used to enjoy? Is this a recent change?  No  Yes
10. Have you ever used drugs or alcohol?  No  Yes (if yes, describe student’s response using student’s words)
11. What do you want to be when you grow up? What things are you looking forward to?
12. Are you willing to work on a plan to keep you safe? No  Yes  N/A
13. There may be a mental health worker who will come to talk to you about these feelings that you are having, how do you feel about this?
14. Have you ever had thoughts about hurting someone else?  No  Yes
    1. If so, are you having any of those thoughts now?
    2. If so, do you have a plan? Can you tell me about that?
    3. If so, do you intend to carry out your plan?  No  Yes

**(\*If yes to any of Question #12, consider initiating a Level 1 student threat assessment)**

1. Who are the people that you trust and can talk with about things in your life (education staff, relative, adult within the community)?
2. What are some good things going on in your life? What makes you happy (reasons for living)? Are you involved in sports, clubs, recreational activities, art, music, church, scouts, etc.?
3. Is there anything else I should know?
4. If there is no suicidal concern, ask the following questions:
   1. When you said (blank) what was happening?
   2. What were you feeling?
   3. What did you want/need in that moment?
   4. What can we do or say instead?

**Step 3:**

1. What is the interviewer’s relationship with the student:  difficult  neutral  positive relationship with this student?
2. In your opinion, was the student:  guarded  defensive  communicative in a manner that appeared open and honest?
3. Were any responses based on stereotypes or assumptions rather than actual observation and factual information regarding behavior?  Yes  No
4. Are there any behaviors that could be appropriate within the student’s culture?  Yes  No

**Explanation:**

1. Is the school team currently completing the Student Safety and Support Plan?  Yes  No (Consider all options available to inhibit or decrease potential suicide. If Yes, proceed to Student Safety and Support Plan for a partial list of options that are available within the district.)

**Explanation:**

1. Is the school team currently requesting a Level 2 Suicide Risk Assessment?

No  Yes (Level 2 Assessments require parent permission, unless student is 14 or older. If the parent is unavailable to consent and the risk is imminent, school team contacts mental health and/or law enforcement (depending on situation). If parent is unwilling to consent and the risk is imminent, also consider a mandatory report to DHS.)

**Explanation:**

*If yes, see Step 4 for Level 2 Suicide Risk Assessment referral process.*

1. **While awaiting the Level 2 assessment, supervise student at all times.**
2. **Contact your Administrator regarding the need to request a Level 2 assessment.**
3. **[District-specific Level 2 instructions]**

**Step 4: TO REQUEST A LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT:**

**INFORMATION NEEDED FOR DISPATCHING A LEVEL 2**

**Step 5:**

1. **Date of Level 2 request:       Time:       Agency:       Name of Initial Contact:**
2. **Estimated Time of Arrival:       Name of the Screener:**
3. **Was a Level 2 Suicide Risk Assessment completed?**  **No  Yes**

**If yes, Date:       Time:       Agency:**

**If no, explain the circumstances:**

1. **Release of information signed.  No  Yes**
2. As needed, consult with NWRESD School Safety & Prevention at 503-614-1263 or [schoolsafety@nwresd.k12.or.us](mailto:schoolsafety@nwresd.k12.or.us) Date:       Time:
3. **As needed, consult with another trained professional. Name:       Date:       Time:**