

## AB 2246: PUPIL SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICIES – REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES

On September 26, 2016, Governor Brown signed into law AB 2246 (Chapter 642, Statutes of 2016) which requires local education agencies (LEAs) serving pupils in grades 7 through 12 to adopt a policy on pupil suicide prevention before the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. This new law applies to county offices of education, school districts, state special schools and charter schools.

### REQUIREMENTS

Under the statute, the policy must be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts.

The policy must address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention.

The policy is required to address the needs of high-risk groups, including:

- Youth bereaved by suicide.
- Youth with disabilities, mental illness or substance abuse disorders.
- Youth experiencing homelessness or out-of-home settings.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning youth.

Materials approved by a LEA for training must include:

- How to identify appropriate mental health services, both at the school site and within the larger community, and
- When and how to refer youth and their families to mental health services.

### RESOURCES

Materials approved for training may also include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials. Keenan has developed training and policy resources that are available online as outlined below.

#### **Keenan SafeSchools and SafeColleges Online Training Platform**

On the KSS and KSC platform, you can use the **policy upload tool** to distribute the following:

- District specific suicide prevention policy.
- Resources on how to identify appropriate mental health services both at the school site and within the larger community.

- When and how to refer youth and their families to those services.

## **KSS/KSC Suicide Prevention Course:**

**Youth Suicide: Awareness and Prevention (39 minutes)** - The goal of the Youth Suicide: Awareness and Prevention course is to provide staff members with information that will help them reduce the likelihood of suicide among students. This course covers the scope of the problem of youth suicide, common risk factors related to youth suicide, successful strategies for youth suicide prevention, the immediate steps a staff member should take if they encounter a student who is threatening suicide, and best practices for intervention after a suicide (postvention).

## **Keenan On Demand Webinar:**

<http://www.keenan.com/2017/suicide-prevention-in-schools/>

**Suicide Prevention Policies & California Schools:** This webinar includes information regarding AB 2246 and practical information to help you develop a policy to prevent student suicides.

Topics include:

- AB 2246 – Requirements & Resources
- Warning Signs
- Protective Factors
- Postvention Toolkit

## **Suicide Prevention Fact Sheet**

[http://www.keenan.com/webinar/Suicide\\_Prevention\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.keenan.com/webinar/Suicide_Prevention_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

## **Model Suicide Prevention Policy**

[http://www.keenan.com/webinar/Model\\_Suicide\\_Prevention\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.keenan.com/webinar/Model_Suicide_Prevention_Policy.pdf)

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