WORKSHEET: Procedures When a Student is at Risk For Suicide
(Student Support Services)

Suicide Prevention
CWK Network

Considerations - Student support staff, health staff, administrators, school-based mental Health professionals, and safety staff may all be called on to intervene when a student is going through a difficult life situation such as serious disciplinary action, assault or other victimization, mental health referral, school failure, stress or loss at home, or mental health referrals. These acute situational stresses may trigger emergence of suicide warning signs and warrant screening and intervention. Staff in these roles must be supported by a standardized procedure for intervention that includes brief screening for suicide risk, triage, referral, safety planning, parent notification, follow up, and return to school meeting.   This standardized process should be accompanied by standardized documentation and should take a collaborative or team approach.

All should have training in a screening instrument, brief interventions like safety planning, and the school's standardized procedure and documentation template.   Additionally, school based mental health staff may benefit from advanced training in suicide intervention skills and suicide risk assessment.

Online resources

The Lighthouse Project

Brief Online training modules

My3App.org

MySafetyPlan App

Printable resources

CSSRS Screener with triage for schools

Safety Planning Intervention Template

NYC Chancellor Regulation A-755 Suicide Intervention

In person training
Helping Students at Risk for Suicide: Assessment, Intervention and Follow up – is a full day workshop designed for student support professionals, to equip them with the tools, knowledge, and skills to assist students having thoughts of suicide or engaging in suicidal behavior.   Contact: Pat Breux at Pat.breux@omh.ny.gov or your local chapter of the http://www.nyasp.org/contact_us/ for more information and to inquire about organizing this workshop near you.

BENCHMARKS: Score your school's status from 1 to 5 with regards to the benchmarks below. Then note some initial steps toward best practice.

BENCHMARKS – Procedures when a student is at risk *(Student Support Services Staff)*	1	2	3	4	5
A. Standardized written procedure for intervening with a student at risk for suicide. **Planning notes**:					
B. All health and mental health professionals have training in the use of a standardized, evidence-based suicide risk assessment or screening tool. **Planning notes:**					
C. Standardized documentation forms that student support staff have been trained in. A secure storage system exists for documentation that protects the privacy of students. **Planning notes:**					
D. Communications with community mental health providers and clear pathways to care have been optimized through agreements and dialog. **Planning notes:**					
E. Reentry meetings are in place when a student has left the building for community suicide risk assessment or for inpatient care. **Planning notes:**					
F. All mental health staff have training in Safety Planning Intervention and safety plan is documented. **Planning notes:**					
G. Debrief and support are provided to staff members that engaged in intervention. **Planning notes:**					

1 = not yet an item of focus, 2 = initial actions have been taken, 3 = several steps have been taken,
4 = nearly integrated into practice, 5 = comprehensively and sustainably integrated into practice