

The MC<sup>2</sup> Board of Trustees 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. MC<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention Plan and Biennial Review. No later than June 30, 2020, the CEO shall develop and provide to the Board for approval a coordinated written MC<sup>2</sup> 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 attempts.

1. Specific Requirements for Plan Terms: The MC<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention Plan shall include terms relating to:
  - a. Suicide prevention (risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, referrals);
  - b. Response to in-or-out-of school student suicides or suicide attempts (postvention, suicide contagion);
  - c. 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;
  - d. 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;
  - e. Confidentiality considerations;
  - f. Designation of any personal, in addition to the MC<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Campus Suicide Prevention Liaisons, to act as points of contact when students are believed to be at an elevated risk of suicide;
  - g. Information regarding state and community resources for referral, crisis intervention, and other related information;
  - h. Dissemination of the Plan or information about the Plan to students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers;

- i. Promotion of cooperative efforts between MC<sup>2</sup> and its campuses and community suicide prevention program personnel;
  - j. 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.).
2. **Biennial Review**: No less than once every two years, the CEO, in consultation with the Campus Suicide Prevention Liaisons and with input and evidence from community health or suicide prevention organizations, and MC<sup>2</sup> health and guidance personnel, shall update the MC<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention Plan, and present the same to the Board of Trustees for review. Such Plan updates shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees in time for appropriate budget consideration.

## B. Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Liaisons

1. **MC<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention Coordinator**. The CEO shall appoint an MC<sup>2</sup> Prevention Coordinator/Liaison for each campus who, under the direction of the CEO shall be responsible for:
  - a. Developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with coordination efforts between the MC<sup>2</sup> campus and community suicide prevention programs and personnel;
  - b. Annual updating of (i) State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention information, and (ii) names and contact information of Campus Suicide Prevention Liaisons, for inclusion in student handbooks and on the MC<sup>2</sup> website;
  - c. Developing – or assisting individual teachers with the development – of age appropriate student educational programming, such that all student 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;
  - d. Developing or assisting in the development of annual staff training required under section C of this policy.
  - e. Such other duties as referenced in this Policy or as assigned by the CEO.
2. **Campus Suicide Prevention Liaison**. The Campus Suicide Prevention Liaison shall be designated by the School Leader 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 Campus Liaison, who shall, immediately or as soon as possible, establish and implement a response plan with the MC<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

- C. Annual Staff Training. The CEO 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 factor, warning signs, protective factors, intervention, response procedures, referrals, and postvention and local resources.
- D. Dissemination. Student handbooks and the MC<sup>2</sup> website will be updated each year with the contact information for the Campus Suicide Prevention Liaisons, State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention resources. The MC<sup>2</sup> Suicide Prevention Plan will be made available on the MC<sup>2</sup> and each campus's respective websites.

Legal References: RSA 193-J: Suicide Prevention Education

**Date Adopted:** June 15, 2020

**Revision Dates:**

**Last Review Date:**