

Spark Academy Suicide Prevention Policy:

Suicide cuts across ethnic, economic, social, and age boundaries and has a tremendous and traumatic impact on surviving family members, friends, and the community at-large. After unintentional injury, suicide is the leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 10 and 24. At a time when unintentional injuries have been on the decline, suicides have increased. Suicide is a complex issue that requires school, family, and community resources to be harnessed for appropriate and timely help to be available in order to prevent suicide. Everyone must do their part to reduce the number of suicides in our school population by ensuring that suicide prevention education and training is available to school personnel and to students and their parents using age-appropriate and evidence-based materials.

Spark Academy has adopted the following policy and practices as we join all schools in the State of New Hampshire to assist families in the prevention of suicide.

1. All school faculty and staff, including contracted personnel and designated school volunteers will receive at least 2 hours of training in the risk factors, protective factors, warning signs, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention, and resources available within the school and community. Training will take place before the beginning of each academic year and on an as-needed basis for new faculty, staff, contracted personnel and designated school volunteers. Training may take place in-person or self-training with materials approved by the director in accordance with NH 193-J:2, 193-J:2, and school policy.
2. Program will be provided to the students as to the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself and others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.

3. The following information will be made available to students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers through the Parent/Student Handbook, Faculty/Staff Handbook, and informational materials within the school:
 - a. The Director of the School, Mr. Denis Mailloux, and/or the Director of Student Services, Mr. Ronald Losier, serve as the point of contact when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide.
 - b. We will work with our families in the process of making referrals, crisis intervention, and other related information both within the school and community.
4. The school will promote cooperative efforts with school districts, chartered public schools, and community prevention program personnel so as to connect the school community with resources to support the school's suicide prevention efforts.

Immunity:

Per NH RSA 193-J:3, Nothing in this policy shall create a private right of action against school Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies, its board members, administrators, or any employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent thereof.

Per NH RSA 193-J:3, a school administrative unit employee, school employee, chartered public school employee, public academy employee, regular school volunteer, pupil, parent, legal guardian, or employee of a company under contract to a school, school district, school administrative unit, or chartered public school, shall be immune from civil liability for conduct arising from or related to the implementation of, or failure to adequately implement, this chapter.