



WPS Suicide Risk Protocols

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WPS Social Workers

Theory of Action

if we screen for suicide risk in times of suspicion of student self-harm, then we can provide necessary support to the student and their family, which will result in the likelihood of a reduction of self-harm and an increased ability for staff to identify and respond to student suicide risk.

Our “Why”

A comprehensive and consistently used tool does not presently exist in the district to screen for suicide risk prevention/postvention response K-12.

WPS Mission: “**Safety**, integrity, and respect are critical to support success for all learners.”

WPS District Strategic Plan: Goal #3: “This district is committed to supporting the social and emotional needs of all students.”

WPS School Growth Plan Goal: “Develop a consistent, systemic, and coordinated program that both proactively and responsively supports the social and emotional needs of all students.”

Our “Why” Cont’d...

Student safety and wellness are of utmost importance at Waterford Public Schools. Furthermore, when students are in emotional distress, they are not available for learning. Providing best practice in suicide risk screening is essential to maintaining student safety. Students, families, staff and community members will all benefit from having this resource available to assist during times of crisis.



- *Researched available tools for screening suicide, met with local Community of Practice (COP), Southeastern Regional Action Council SERAC, Regional Suicide Advisory Board (RSAB), reviewed State mandated safety documents and identified common gaps in safety planning.*
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- *Met with colleagues from other school districts to review their existing protocols and processes. Discussed their processes in the development of their district risk screening and response plan.*
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- *Scheduled and met with WPS related service team on 1/20/23 to share findings, listen to ideas, concerns, and reviewed the WPS "Suspicion of Student Self-Harm" current policy/regulation. Discuss current practices.*



- *Review the previously drafted WPS protocols for suicide risk screening (21-22) and updated this document with support and collaboration from the WPS SSW/Psych's during PLC.*
- *Trialed this document with students in crisis 21-22, 22-23 school year. Obtained feedback about documentation/process.*
- *Scheduled staff PD for SW/Psych/Guidance on the use of CSSRS (Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale) on 4/25/23.*
- *Scheduled follow-up with Diagnostic Team on 5/16/23 to discuss feedback about the training and next steps in protocol development.*



Free Virtual Webinar
& Discussion of the:

Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS)

April 25, 2023
9-10:30 via Zoom

Utilization of a validated
screening tool is essential for
good suicide prevention in
schools, mental health
treatment and any
community setting.

Presenter: Adam M. Lesser, LCSW
Deputy Director for Training and
Implementation, The Columbia
Lighthouse Project



CEUs are not available for this event



This training is designed to improve
participants' knowledge about suicide risk
factors and assessing for acute suicide risk
using the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating
Scale (C-SSRS) screening tool. The C-SSRS is a
Free evidenced-based tool for screening for
suicide risk across the life span which is
applicable in a variety of settings and can be
utilized by both clinical and non-clinical
individuals.

Answer Questions 1 and 2	Within Past Month	Within Past 3 Months
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?		
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?		
If YES to 2, answer questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, go directly to question 6.		
3) Have you thought about how you might do this?		
4) Have you had any intention of acting on these thoughts of killing yourself, or expressed to you how the thoughts had you thinking you would not act on them?		
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?		
Always Ask Question 6		
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life?		

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
800-273-8255
Text: 726-8255
Web: 273-8255

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE
DON'T LEAVE THE PERSON ALONE.
STAY ENGAGED UNTIL YOU
MAKE A WARM HAND-OFF TO
SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP.

If you have any questions contact:
miron@seracct.org

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past Month	
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?		
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?		
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.		
3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this?		
4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?	High Risk	
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?	High Risk	
Always Ask Question 6	Life-time	Past 3 Months
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life?		High Risk
<i>Examples:</i> Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, or collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, etc. If yes, was this within the past 3 months?		



If YES to 2 or 3, seek behavioral
healthcare for further evaluation.
If the answer to 4, 5 or 6 is YES, get
immediate help: Call or text 988, call 911
or go to the emergency room.
STAY WITH THEM until they can be evaluated.



Download
Columbia
Protocol
app

Maggie's Reflection



- Supporting our students' mental health needs
- Collaborating with faculty
- Informing families in need the community resources
- Providing counseling services to support positive connection with students

Being a part of the Leadership Academy this year, has been a great experience. Collaborating with other creative professionals in the Waterford District, sharing ideas, researching, reviewing Student Self-harm protocols and working together to help build a more streamline system.

It is important to provide emotional support during times of crisis and follow up with the student and parent . As we know, children are open to learning when they feel safe and feel supported.

I would recommend other professionals to apply to the Leadership Academy. Many thanks to the team of professionals I had the privilege working with.

Brittany's Reflection

- Assessment
- Advocacy
- Feedback
- Patience
- Research
- Collaboration
- Persistence
- Flexibility



Just a few of the skills that were needed to move forward this initiative. I feel proud of this work and recognize how important it is to have such processes in place for our students, families and the community. This protocol is a “work in progress” and there is much more to be accomplished. Mental health needs continue to increase exponentially, and this project will better assist our district with responding to the needs of our students, their families and the Waterford community.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn and grow alongside this inspiring Leadership Team!