SECTION 2: IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO SUICIDE RISK IN SCHOOLS (INTERVENTION)

ATTACHMENT 2.01

PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION

Parents and/or guardians should be contacted immediately when a student has been identified as possibly being at risk of suicide. The person who contacts the family is typically the principal, school mental health staff, or a staff member with a close connection to the student or family.

Staff need to be sensitive toward the family’s culture, including attitudes towards suicide, mental health, privacy, and help-seeking. It is also critical that the school takes steps to address language/cultural barriers and ensure proper and adequate communication with parents/guardians.

SAMPLE SCRIPT

“We received a concern that your child may be thinking about suicide. Your student is currently safe and is not in trouble with the school. This can feel scary, and we want to support you and your student, so we’d like your permission to check in with [student name] directly to ask some questions related to suicidal thoughts. Then we can talk about safety and support from there. Do we have your permission to screen and support your child? We will update you immediately.”

School Crisis Response Team member receives suicidal concern about a student. The concern may come directly from the student themselves, or from a peer, parent, or school staff member.

Attempt to notify parent/guardian of this concern immediately, ask for consent to move forward with conducting a suicide screening, and may need to request their presence at the school.

UNABLE TO REACH PARENT/GUARDIAN

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENTS TO SCREEN

Move forward with suicide screening. Leave voicemail for parent/guardian if unable to reach them.

Designated school staff member follows Suicide Screening and Response Protocol. Document.

Complete the Parent Contact Acknowledgment Form and provide recommendations and resources. Document.

PARENT ARRIVES

School contacts SRO or local law enforcement for a child in need of care. Document.

School files report with DCF. Document.

PARENT DOES NOT ARRIVE

Parent is requested to arrive at school within a set time frame determined by the school district.

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