



## Youth Protection & Suicide Prevention Policy

Merit Preparatory Academy

### I. ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

In collaboration with school administrators, counselors, and student leaders, the school shall implement a youth suicide prevention program for all students (grades 7-12) at Merit Prep. This program shall consider appropriate coordination with instruction for the prevention of bullying and cyber-bullying, underage drinking of alcohol, substance abuse, and suicide prevention. The program shall also include provisions to ensure prompt communication with parents. The program shall include topics addressing:

- A. Life-affirming education, including the concepts of resiliency, healthy habits, self-care, problem solving, and conflict resolution;
- B. Support and resources in educating families;
- C. Methods of strengthening a youth's relationships in the school and community;
- D. Prevention and intervention of youth suicide;
- E. Postvention for family, students, and faculty;
- F. Bullying and cyber-bullying;
- G. Underage drinking of alcohol; and
- H. Adverse effects of traumatic experiences.

In implementing this program and related training, the school shall refer to and as appropriate make use of the model programs developed by the Department of Health - State Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and the State Suicide Prevention Coordinator. It shall also provide parent notification by the school regarding any incident involving the above.

*Utah Code § 53G-9-702 (2021), § 53G-9-604, and § 53G-9-605  
Utah Admin. Rules R277-620-3(3) to (6) (December 10, 2018)*

### II. STAFF YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Each licensed employee of the school shall complete a professional development training on youth suicide prevention every year, using the training materials adopted by the school's Administration and Counselors.

*Utah Code § 53G-9-704 (2020)*

### III. YOUTH SUICIDE PROGRAM FUNDING

- A. The Board shall distribute funds to support the program:
  - a. According to evidence-based practices
  - b. Emerging best practices
- B. Include a component of reporting to the state on requirements according to 53G-9-702.

Board Approved: 12/20/22