



Sample Immediate Intervention

In the case of harm to self or others

Ideally, a student who is thinking about harm to self or others would be identified through the school mental health protocol and appropriate action would be in place to prevent these harmful behaviors. However, students who are at risk for these behaviors sometimes go undetected.

It is important that schools have a plan in place to address these situations. This plan should be communicated to all staff members at the school.

Signs of intention to harm oneself or others can be evidenced verbally, to teachers, other staff members or other students, or through a student's writings and/or art. The school should have a clearly communicated policy that **ALL SIGNS OF HARMING ONESELF OR OTHERS OR SUICIDAL IDEATION, EVEN ISOLATED INCIDENTS, MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND ACTED UPON IMMEDIATELY BY NOTIFYING THE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT TEAM/INDIVIDUAL.**

Once a staff member has identified a student at risk, the school Mental Health Assessment Team/Individual should investigate the matter immediately in order to assess the appropriate level of response, which may include an interview with the student. If it is found that the student is in need of immediate response, the school should:

- Contact the parent or guardian immediately.
- Keep the student under adult supervision until the parent or guardian is contacted and has met with the Mental Health Assessment Team/Individual.
- If necessary, make arrangements for the student to be taken to the hospital for a psychological evaluation and to stabilize the child. If appropriate, 911 should be called for transportation to the hospital.
- Appropriate information should be shared with key staff, on a need to know basis to protect the child.

REMINDER: As adults working with children we should always keep in mind our responsibility as mandated reporters. If a child discloses plans to hurt themselves, someone else or if someone is hurting them—a report to the appropriate authorities in your area is required by law.

If you need to speak with someone immediately, please text LISTEN to 741-741 or call 1-800-273-8255.
If this is an emergency, please call 911.