



May 18, 2017

AB 2246 - Suicide Prevention Policy

As we previously reported, the Legislature passed AB 2246 last year, adding Section 215 to the Education Code. Section 215 requires educational agencies serving grades 7 through 12 to adopt a suicide prevention policy. The California Department of Education has developed and recently released a model policy (a Word version, which can be customized for your district, has been supplied by CSBA and accompanies this communication).

CDE also has a page of related resources, last updated in March 2016. The page is found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh/suicideprevres.asp>

The suicide prevention policy should be in place before the start of the 2017-2018 school year (i.e., before July 1). It must be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts. Section 215 also has requirements for training teachers and other school staff and for approval of training materials.

Districts must act quickly to meet the new requirements and have the policy in place **before July 1, 2017**. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or if we can assist you with getting the policy in place.

— William A. Hornback

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