

Protecting the health and well-being of all students is of utmost importance to George Washington Academy. The following is our suicide prevention policy:

Prevention

- The school will adopt and implement a school-wide pre-approved, grade-level appropriate curriculum. That curriculum will be taught universally by trained staff and focus on recognizing and responding to warning signs of mental health concerns, using coping skills, and seeking help for themselves and others.
- George Washington Academy will designate a suicide prevention coordinator to serve as a point of contact for students in crisis and to refer students to appropriate resources in the community.
- All school personnel will receive annual training on risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention.

Intervention

- When a student is identified by a peer, educator, or other source as potentially at-risk for self-harm or harming others, the student shall be seen by a school-employed mental health professional, such as a school psychologist, school counselor, school social worker, within the same school day to complete an information gathering interview, contact parent/guardian, and facilitate referral (if appropriate).
- Any GWA staff member, who believes a student is at-risk, may intervene immediately to ask the student questions about their student's suicidal thoughts, physically self-harming behavior, or thoughts of harming others for the purpose of referring the student to the school-employed mental health professional.
- Staff shall always report any written threats and expressions about self-harm, harming others, and/or death in school assignments to the appropriate school-employed mental health professional within the same day it was discovered/reported to them. The same intervention procedure above will be followed within the same school day it was reported to the mental health professional.