

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS PROTOCOL

As required by OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-159, the Technology Center will develop and maintain a protocol for responding to students in mental health crisis with the goal of preventing student suicide, self-harm, and harm to others.

Provider Partners

The Technology Center shall develop, maintain, and implement its student mental health crisis protocol (the “Protocol”) in partnership with one or more local mental health treatment providers certified by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (“Provider Partner(s)”). At least one Provider Partner that participates in the Protocol shall meet the following criteria:

- A. The provider must have the ability to serve all school-aged children regardless of insurance status; and
- B. The provider must have the ability and certification to provide mental health crisis services in the region where students attend school.

Contents of Protocol

The Technology Center’s Protocol shall:

- A. Provide a definition of mental health crisis involving potential for harm to self or others.
- B. Document how mental health crises may be identified by school administrators, instructors, support employees, and school-based mental health professionals.
- C. Outline nonpunitive steps to safeguard student health and safety in response to an immediate or potential mental health crisis.
- D. Identify local treatment providers and resources available to support students and families in mental health crisis and ensure appropriate referrals to treatment.
- E. Outline a process for ensuring parent and caregiver notification and involvement during an actual or potential mental health crisis. In the event that a student who is under eighteen years of age is identified as being in or at risk of a mental health crisis, the Protocol shall call for Technology Center employees to inform the student’s parent or legal guardian and offer the treatment referral information contained in the Protocol. The Protocol shall further provide that parent or legal guardian consent shall be required for any subsequent action taken by the Technology Center as part of the protocol except in cases of immediate and life-threatening danger to self or others.
- F. Document how student privacy will be protected in compliance with applicable state and federal laws, including, but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”).

Working Agreement

The Board of Education and each of the Technology Center's Provider Partner(s) shall enter into a working agreement establishing all obligations of the parties under the established Protocol and a strategy for regularly reviewing its effectiveness using anonymous, nonidentifiable data (the "Working Agreement").

Review and Updates

Not less than every two years, the Technology Center and its Provider Partner(s) shall jointly review the Protocol and Working Agreement and consider whether updates to the Protocol are necessary to better meet the needs of students. This process shall include a review of information gathered from the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment Survey or an alternative survey conducted by the Technology Center as provided for in OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-158, to the extent the Technology Center has participated in such a survey and such information is available.

State Agency Review

The Technology Center will submit the most recent version of its Protocol and Working Agreement to the Oklahoma State Department of Education, which will in turn submit those documents to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. These agencies may require revisions to the Protocol in order to ensure compliance with applicable laws/regulations and/or established evidence-based practices.

Access/Training

The Technology Center will provide administrators, instructors, support employees and school-based mental health providers with ready access to the Protocol and regular training regarding the Protocol. In addition to regular training regarding the Protocol, the Technology Center shall require a training program for instructors which shall emphasize the importance of recognizing and addressing the mental health needs of students. This program shall be completed the first year a certified instructor is employed by the Technology Center, and then once every fifth academic year.

Reference: OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, §§ 24-158 and 24-159; OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-194.3.