SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Lionheart Classical Academy is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; to establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt ("postvention"); and to promote access to suicide awareness, prevention and postvention resources.

A. District Suicide Prevention Plan and Biennial Review.

The Director or designee shall develop and provide to the Board for approval, a coordinated written District Suicide Prevention Plan (the "Plan") to include guidelines, protocols and procedures with the objectives of prevention, risk assessment, intervention and response to youth suicides and suicide attempts.

1. Specific Requirements for Plan Terms: The District Suicide Prevention Plan shall include terms relating to:

a) Suicide prevention (risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, referrals).

b) Response to in-or-out-of-school student suicides or suicide attempts (postvention, suicide contagion).

c) Student education regarding safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, recognition of risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide; and help seeking strategies.

d) Training of staff, designated volunteers, and contracted personnel on the issues of youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention and resources available within the school and community.

e) Confidentiality considerations.

f) Designation of any personnel.

g) Information regarding state and community resources for referral, crisis intervention, and other related information.

h) Dissemination of the Plan or information about the Plan to students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers.

i) Promotion of cooperative efforts between the District and its schools and community suicide prevention program personnel.

j) Such include such other provisions deemed appropriate to meet the objectives of this Policy (e.g., student handbook language, reporting processes, "postvention" strategies, memorial parameters, etc.).

2. Biennial Review: No less than once every two years,The Director and/or designee with input and evidence from community health or suicide prevention organizations, and District health and guidance personnel, shall update the District Suicide Prevention Plan, and present the same to the Board for review.

B. Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Liaisons.

1. District Suicide Prevention Coordinator. The staff member serving as the head of school counseling is designated as the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator, who, under the direction of the The Executive Director shall be responsible for:

a) developing and maintaining cooperative relationships and coordination with District and community suicide prevention programs and personnel.

b) annual updating of:

(i) State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention Information, and

(ii) names and contact information of Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, for inclusion in student handbooks and on the website.

c) developing - or assisting individual teachers with the development – of age appropriate student educational programing, such that all students receive information in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.

d) developing or assisting in the development of the annual staff training required under section C of this policy.

e) Such other duties as referenced in this Policy or as assigned by the Executive Director;

2. Building Suicide Prevention Liaison. The school counseling team or, in their absence, the Director, shall be designated as the Building Suicide Prevention Liaison, and shall serve as the in building point-of-contact person when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide. Employees who have reason to believe a student is at risk of suicide, or is exhibiting risk factors for suicide, shall report that information to the Building Liaison, who shall, immediately or as soon as possible, establish and implement a response plan with the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

C. Annual Staff Training. The Suicide Prevention Coordinator shall assure that beginning with the 2025-26 school year, all school building faculty and staff, designated volunteers, and any other personnel who have regular contact with students, including contracted personnel or third-party employees, receive at least two hours of training in suicide awareness and prevention. Such training may include such matters as youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, intervention, response procedures, referrals, and postvention and local resources.

D. Dissemination. Student handbooks and the District's website will be updated each year with the contact information for the Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention resources. Lionheart Classical Academy's Suicide Prevention Plan will be made available on the school's website.

LCA Policy Committee Approved:

LCA Board of Trustees Approved: 12/11/25

Legal References:

- *RSA 193-J: Suicide Prevention Education*

Other Resources:

- *The New Hampshire Department of Education's Bureau of Student Wellness, Office of Social and Emotional Wellness (OSEW), provides resources and technical assistance to school districts to work collaboratively with their community to respond to the needs of students through a multi-tiered system of support for behavioral health and wellness. For further information see: www.nhstudentwellness.org*
- *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) - https://www.afsp.org*
- *Suicide Prevention Resource Center - http://www.sprc.org*
- *The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org*