SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN
The conversation related to suicide is delicate for all involved, especially when it involves children. It is, however, a discussion that must take place to provide the supports necessary for students.

PURPOSE
All school district employees will be aware of the warning signs, indicators of risk, how to report concerns, and the process in place to support students.

*Lawrence Public Schools USD 497 is committed to suicide awareness, education, and prevention.*

RESOURCES
Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center (www.bertnash.org)
(Offers a wide range of mental health services to residents of Douglas County) 785-843-9192

Headquarters Counseling Center (www.headquarterscounselingcenter.org)
Local Hotline 1-785-841-2345

Kansas Suicide Prevention Resource Center (www.KansasSuicidePrevention.org)

American Foundation of Suicide Prevention (www.afsp.org) (AFSP) (Provides information about how to determine the degree of risk and how to respond)

Marillac Center (www.marillac.org) (Marillac provides comprehensive mental health services for children, adolescents and families) 913-951-4300

KVC Behavioral HealthCare Inc. (www.kvc.org) (Provides a continuum of medical and behavioral care for children) 1-866-582-2273

HOTLINES
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
Hopeline Network: 1-800-784-2433
The Trevor Project Suicide Hotline: 1866-488-7386
GLBT National Youth Talkline: 1-800-246-7743
Kansas School Safety Hotline: 1-877-626-8203
SUICIDE PREVENTION PROTOCOLS
Lawrence Public Schools will follow the suicide prevention procedures listed below. If any peer, teacher or other school employee identifies someone potentially suicidal as a result of directly or indirectly expressing suicidal thoughts (ideation) or demonstrating clues or warning signs:

We will:

1. Take the threat of self-harm seriously.
2. Take immediate action. The Building Administrator, Counselor, School Psychologist, School Social Worker or building Mental Health Professional will be notified.
3. The Building Administrator or Mental Health Professional will follow the district’s Suicide Prevention Administrative Procedures (as noted in the district’s Bluebooks).
4. The student will meet with a designated Mental Health Professional to assess the level of risk.
5. The student will be monitored and kept safe.
6. The Mental Health Professional will notify parents/legal guardian immediately to schedule a conference to share the student’s emotional condition and behavior. Parents/legal guardians will be provided names and phone numbers of agencies that may provide immediate assistance and will be given a copy of the Emergency Conference with Parents Form.
7. If the Administrator or Mental Health Professional knows or has reasonable cause to suspect the student has been, or is likely to be, abused or neglected, a report of suspected abuse or neglect will be made to the Department for Children and Families (DCF) by calling the Kansas Protection Report Center at 1-800-922-5330.
8. Employees of educational institutions are mandated reporters for suspected child abuse and neglect.
9. All actions will be documented.
IMPORTANT SIGNS/SYMPTOMS/BEHAVIORS
Awareness of the following signs/symptoms/behaviors will assist with self-harm and suicide prevention. Self-harm and suicide can occur with children and adolescents of varying ages. Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among children and adolescents age 10-24.

If the following symptoms are observed, the student will be referred to the building Mental Health Team:

* Talk about suicide/related drawings/Internet sites
* Past suicide attempts and present concerning behaviors
* Engaging in self-harm (i.e. cutting, burning)
Strong reaction to recent loss (i.e. relationship, deaths)
Familial/environmental stressors
Sudden changes in behavior, personality, friends
Drug and alcohol use and abuse
Trouble with sleeping
High degree of self-criticism
Victim of bullying/harassment
Extreme passivity
Lack of emotion
Pessimism
Depression or other mood disorders
Giving away possessions
Socially isolating self
Extreme risk taking
Feelings of hopelessness
Impulsivity
Promiscuity
Loss of Appetite
Feelings of rejection
Distorted reality
Declining grades
Deteriorating school function
Pressure to achieve
Sexual identity issues

*Indicates immediate referral to Mental Health Team