

**Catalyst Academy Charter School**  
**Suicide Prevention and Response**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Board is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its scholars and the Catalyst Academy community. This policy supports federal, state, and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; establishes methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt; and promoted access to suicide awareness and prevention resources.

**AUTHORITY**

In compliance with state law and regulations, and in support of Catalyst Academy's suicide prevention measures, information received in confidence from a scholar may be revealed to the scholar's parents/guardians, the Principal, or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare, or safety of the scholar or any other person is deemed to be at risk.

**PROCEDURES & RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

Scholars shall receive age-appropriate education on the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs, and help-seeking strategies for self or others, including how to engage school resources and refer peers for help. These lessons shall contain information on comprehensive health and wellness, including social-emotional development.

All Catalyst Academy employees shall annually receive information regarding risk factors, warning signs, response procedures, and referrals.

Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention shall be provided to staff within the Scholar Support Center, including but not limited to the Director of Scholars, the Director of Inclusive Learning, school counselor(s), school nurse(s), and other support staff.

Catalyst Academy may provide parents/guardians with resources including but not limited to social-emotional development and information about local behavioral/mental health resources in the surrounding community.

The methods of prevention utilized by Catalyst Academy include, but are not limited to, early identification and support for scholars at risk; education for scholars, staff and parents/guardians; and delegation of responsibility for planning and coordination of suicide awareness, prevention and response efforts by administrative protocol.