



## **Mental Health Needs of Students**

### **BP 5117 Students**

The Governing Board recognizes that students who experience mental health needs during the school day should be responded to with appropriate services and supports to address these needs whenever possible and in compliance with state and federal nondiscrimination laws and policies of the District. Site administrators shall request district mental health professionals to respond to students who are exhibiting indicators of mental health needs or who are experiencing a mental health crisis in order to maintain the safety of the student, other students, and staff.

Site administrators and mental health professionals shall follow the “Protocol for Responding to Students Experiencing Mental Health Needs/Crisis”, which is an Exhibit to this Board Policy, for the purpose of requesting assessment to assist them in identifying and responding to the mental health needs of students that may be addressed at the school site. The six-step Protocol shall be followed when responding to students in a mental health crisis or who are otherwise exhibiting mental health issues.

Site administrators shall not refer students to law enforcement who are experiencing a mental health crisis or who are otherwise suggesting behavior that may be addressed by mental health services and supports, unless it is for the limited purpose of law enforcement determining whether the student should be taken to a mental health evaluation and treatment facility for assessment, evaluation, crisis intervention, or for placement in the facility for evaluation and treatment. (Welfare and Institutions Code 5150 et seq.)

Legal Reference:

Adopted: August 25, 2020