Fresno Unified Board Policy (BP) 5141.5
Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health

The Governing Board recognizes that students' emotional well-being and mental health contribute to their ability to perform to their full academic and personal potential. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies and services to build students' resiliency skills, help students cope with life challenges, and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

The Superintendent or designee shall consult and collaborate with school-employed mental health professionals, the county mental health department, psychologists and other health professionals, social workers, and/or community organizations to strengthen local mental health services and develop and implement an integrated plan to support student mental health.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

To the extent possible, the district shall focus on preventive strategies which increase students' connectedness to school, create a support network of peers and trusted adults, and provide techniques for conflict resolution. The district shall investigate and resolve any complaint of bullying, intimidation, harassment, or discrimination in accordance with law and district policy.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. S131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. S137 - Positive School Climate)
(cf. S145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. S145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

The district shall provide instruction to students that promotes their healthy mental, emotional, and social development. Health education courses shall be aligned with the state content standards and curriculum framework and shall include, but not be limited to, instruction related to identifying signs of depression and self-destructive behaviors, developing coping skills, and identifying resources that may provide assistance.

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide school staff with information and training to recognize the early signs of an emerging mental health condition, identify risk factors and warning signs of suicidal intent, respond to students who have been impacted by traumatic stress, and link students with effective services and supports. Such information may also be provided to parents/guardians and families.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)
(cf. S145.52 - Suicide Prevention)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a protocol for identifying and assessing students who may...
be suffering from an anxiety disorder, depression, eating disorder, or other severe or disabling mental illness. The Superintendent or designee may establish districtwide or school-site crisis intervention team(s) to respond to mental health concerns in the school setting.

A school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker may provide mental health counseling to students in accordance with the specialization(s) authorized on the individual's credential. As needed, students and their parents/guardians may be provided referrals to mental health services in the community and/or to mental health services at or near district schools.

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

If a student has an emotional or mental illness that limits a major life activity, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment, or may need special education and related services, the student shall be referred for an evaluation for purposes of determining whether any educational or related services are required in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as applicable. (Education Code 56301-56302; 29 USC 794; 28 CFR 35.108)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

The Superintendent or designee shall explore potential funding sources for district programs and services that support student's mental health. In accordance with local plans and priorities, the district may apply to the county for grants for prevention and early intervention activities that are designed to prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling and to improve timely access for underserved populations.

Fresno Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, medical information, military veteran status, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
215-216 Student suicide prevention
234.6 Posting suicide prevention policy on web site
32280-32289.5 Comprehensive safety plan
49060-49079 Student records
49600 Responsibilities of school counselors
49602 Confidentiality of student information
49604 Suicide prevention training for school counselors
56171 Duty to identify and assess children in private schools who need special education services
56300-56385 Identification, referral, and assessment for special education
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
5698 Emotionally disturbed youth; legislative intent
5840-5840.8 Prevention and early intervention programs
5850-5886 Children's Mental Health Services Act
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
WEB SITES
California Department of Education, Mental Health:  http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh
California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health Services:  http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health:  http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth
National Association of School Psychologists:  http://www.nasponline.org
National Council for Behavioral Health, Mental Health First Aid:  http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org
National Institute for Mental Health:  http://www.nimh.nih.gov
Suicide Prevention Lifeline:  http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Suicide Prevention Resource Center:  http://www.sprc.org/about-suicide
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:  
http://www.samhsa.gov

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Adopted: January 20, 2021 Fresno, California

Policy Section: 5000 Students