

Emergency response procedures vary by school district. This information represents key considerations that will help in emergency behavioral health situations.

Policies & Procedures

At the Annual SchoolLink Meeting, school staff shares a copy of the school's suicide/self-harm policies and procedures with the provider.

Roles & Responsibilities

Schools have a legal duty to supervise their students and ensure they are in a safe, secure and peaceful environment. Providers are guests on a school campus who provide students an important service. Providers need to report any concerns and/or information about a crisis situation to school staff immediately. While both teams should work together to help a student in crisis, school staff are ultimately responsible for the student's safety and therefore must lead the response.

Provider Response

If a provider is on-campus and learns a student is verbalizing suicidal ideation, or engaging in self-harm, the provider should immediately ensure the student's safety and then inform the Principal or their designee about the situation. The provider may offer support to the student and school staff during a crisis, as requested by the principal or designee.

School Response

The school is legally responsible for the student's safety on their campus, so the principal or their designee is responsible for leading the response to a suicide or self-harm situation and completing the school's emergency procedures.



Emergency Resources

911

Request an ambulance or other emergency assistance such as the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) who are specially trained officers paired with licensed mental health professionals. Together, they respond on-scene to situations involving people experiencing a mental health crisis.

Emergency Screening Unit

Provides emergency mental health services for children and adolescents under age 18 who are experiencing a mental health emergency or crisis.

- **San Diego:** 4309 Third Avenue San Diego, CA 92103 | ☎ (619) 876-4502

North County Crisis Intervention and Response Team (CIRT)

Provides voluntary walk-in and mobile assessment for children, adolescents and young adults who are in need of emergency assessment and mental health services.

- **Escondido:** 225 W. Valley Parkway, Ste 100, Escondido, CA 92025 | ☎ (760) 233-0133
- **Vista:** 1020 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Suite B-1 Vista, CA 92085 | ☎ (760) 305-8225

Suicide Prevention Resources

- [San Diego Suicide Prevention Council](#)
- [Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program San Diego](#)
- [San Diego Youth Services HERE Now Program](#)

School Threat Resources

- [SDCOE Threat Assessment](#)
- [Sandy Hook Promise](#)



Key Point

School staff are responsible for leading the response to any threat or action of suicide or self-harm.

Key Terms

Behavioral health services: A continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support services for mental health and substance use.

County-funded: Services funded through the County of San Diego's Health & Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Services Division.

Provider: Unless otherwise specified, a County-funded behavioral health provider.

Administrative Information

For administrative information or to provide feedback about the SchoolLink training program, please email BHSContactUs.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov with subject line: SchoolLink or call 619-563-2700 and ask to speak with the Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Services for Children, Youth, and Families.