

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, one person dies by suicide every 11.7 minutes in the United States, resulting in nearly 45,000 deaths each year; and

WHEREAS, in July 2022 the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number changed to 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. 988 is the new three-digit dialing code that routes callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. From its inception in 2005 through 2021, the Lifeline received 23,044,100 calls; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death in Wisconsin youth. From 2010 to 2019, 271 Wisconsin youth died by suicide, while many more considered and attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Glendale-River Hills School District lost a student to suicide in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the state of youth mental health in the United States has declined so significantly that the United States Surgeon General issued a Youth Mental Health Advisory in 2021, detailing data, concerns, and preventive strategies; and

WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2018, suicide rates among youth ages 10 to 24 increased by 57%. From 2009 to 2019, the proportion of high school students seriously considering attempting suicide increased by 36%; and the proportion creating a suicide plan rose by 44%. A 2022 survey of more than 30,000 LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24 found that 45% have seriously considered attempting suicide. Adolescent black youth are twice as likely to die by suicide, compared to white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with suicide works against suicide prevention, by discouraging at-risk people and those who know them from seeking life-saving help, and stigma further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experiences of suicide; and

WHEREAS, access to mental health and social/emotional support services and suicide prevention resources is more critical now than ever; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to educate and encourage students, staff and families to recognize the warning signs of suicide, guide those in need to appropriate services and supports, and enable conversations among stakeholders in our community to help break down stigma.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glendale-River Hills Board of Education recognizes and supports the goals of National Suicide Prevention Month in promoting suicide prevention awareness, and makes a commitment to

1. Acknowledge the role public schools can and must play in preventing suicide by supporting the mental health of students and staff in our school communities;
2. Support and enable the creation of positive, safe and affirming school environments for all students and staff through inclusive and equitable language, practices and policies;
3. Ensure that our district pursues appropriate and sufficient social and emotional learning programs and evidence-based approaches to promote healthy student development, including trauma-informed practices and training for staff to recognize signs of mental health risks and suicidal ideation;
4. Support the mental health of all school personnel, recognizing that this is foundational to maintaining a healthy, compassionate and positive school environment;
5. Ensure that families, students, and district staff are made aware of district resources to support mental health and suicide prevention; and
6. Work with local community stakeholders, including caregivers, students, and district staff, to raise awareness of mental health challenges and suicide prevention, build resilience, and find hope.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Board of Education of the Glendale - River Hills School District, have executed this resolution this 21st day of September, 2022.