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## STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

The Board of Directors of the Capital College & Career Academy (“CCCA” or the “Charter School”) recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that school personnel who regularly interact with students, are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. To attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Executive Director or designee shall develop a plan for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all students at Capital College & Career Academy by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. In developing the plan for use by Capital College & Career Academy, the Executive Director or designee may consult with school counselors, school psychologists, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations

Such measures shall include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining a safe school environment designed to prevent violence, bullying, and the abuse of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs.
- On-going staff development on suicide awareness and prevention. Staff shall include teachers, counselors, administrators and all other school employees who interact with students.
- Instruction for students in problem solving and coping skills to promote students’ mental, emotional and social health, and well-being, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others.
- Designing programs to promote a positive school climate that enhances students’ feelings of connectedness with the school.
- Strategies to engage parents/guardians, including providing information regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the youth suicide problem, Capital College & Career Academy’s suicide prevention

curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.

- Encouraging students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.
- Crisis intervention procedures for staff to address and respond to suicide threats or attempts and assist students at risk of suicide.
- Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a suicide.

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning youth.