



Youth suicide is a serious problem. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among school age young and it is preventable. The Coweta County School System is dedicated to helping staff and students recognize the warning signs, collaborate between schools and community providers, and create an environment where students feel safe.

Suicide Risk Factors:

- Previous suicide attempts
- Isolation and aloneness
- Non-suicidal self-injury
- Mental Illness
- Family stress/dysfunction
- Family history of suicide
- Environmental Risks, including presence of a firearm in the home
- Situational crises (e.g. serious disciplinary action, death of a loved one, physical or sexual abuse, breakup of a relationship/friendship, family violence)

Be Aware of Warning Signs:

- *Suicidal threats in the form of direct and indirect statements
- *Suicide notes and plans (including online postings)
- *Making final arrangements (e.g. giving away prized possessions)
- *Preoccupation with death
- *Changes in behavior, appearance, thoughts, and/or feelings

SAFE MESSAGING FOR STUDENTS:

Suicide is never a solution. It is an irreversible choice regarding a temporary problem. There is help. If you are struggling with thoughts of suicide or know someone who is, talk to a trusted adult, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text "START" to 741741.

Georgia law (HB 198, The Jason Flatt Act – Georgia, adopted 5/5/15) now requires all certificated public school personnel to receive annual training in suicide awareness and prevention. The new law also requires each local school system to adopt a policy on student suicide prevention, intervention, and posttension and the Department of Education to establish a model policy for use by local school systems.