The school psychologist promotes educationally and psychologically healthy school environments to optimize student learning by utilizing current trends in research, assessment, intervention, referral, counseling, consultation, and crisis management. The school psychological services shall include consultation with parents or guardians, teachers, principals, and other administrators. Strategic psychological intervention with students and families may include individual psychological evaluation, implementation of prevention and early intervention programs, in-service training for school personnel, and other functions as required to address the broad range of educational, social, emotional, and behavioral concerns exhibited by students. Counseling to students with special needs will be provided as a related service on the Individualized Education Program (IEP) when the IEP team determines it is required.

In accordance with § 221.1-272.1 “Code of Virginia,” when a student appears to be at-risk for suicide, all licensed educational professionals hold the responsibility of reporting the student to a qualified school professional. The school psychologist, a qualified school professional, shall be responsible for assessing the student at risk for suicide and following all procedures outlined in the Suicide/Intervention Handbook.

The Suicide Prevention/Intervention Handbook prepared by the Office of Student Services and the Office of Risk Management and Security Services Crisis Management Plan contains best practices for administrators and qualified school professionals to follow when a student may be at risk for suicide.

The Associate Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.