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Chinese university asks students to sign 'suicide waiver'

Abby Kloppenburg, USA TODAY 11:27 a.m. EDT September 20, 2013

The City College of Dongguan University of Technology, in the Guangdong province, has been distributing a "student management and self discipline agreement."



In this 2010 file photo, Chinese students gather to relieve stress prior to China's three-day make-or-break college entry exams, which shapes the working lives of many students.(Photo: AFP/Getty Images)

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A Chinese university has asked students to sign a waiver taking responsibility for their own injury and suicide.

The City College of Dongguan University of Technology, in the Guangdong province, has been distributing a "student management and self discipline agreement" that

requires students not to hold the university responsible if they injure themselves or commit suicide on campus, according to [China Daily](#).

More than 5,000 freshmen have signed the contract.

The notion isn't uncommon – last March, the [South China Morning Post reported](#) that the Shandong Jianzhu University in Jinan asked about 20,000 students to sign a similar waiver, absolving the university of responsibility for suicide and self-inflicted injuries.

The waivers may have been implemented because China is reported to have the highest suicide rate in the world, with 22 people per 100,000 taking their own lives, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Based on this number, 287,000 Chinese commit suicide each year.

Still, some parents think the measure is too harsh.

"I think this kind of agreement is irresponsible and unfair..." Ms. Li, a Chinese parent, [told Time magazine](#). She refused to release her full name. "The school should provide counseling services and other help for students instead of trying to absolve themselves of responsibility even before anything has happened.