

Policy

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide or Sudden Death

The Board of Education recognizes that the rate of self-destructive behavior is increasing among children and adolescents in this country. Pupils who experience depression are unable to benefit fully from the educational program of the school. Moreover, a pupil who attempts suicide poses a danger both to self and possibly to others.

Therefore, the board of education directs that all school personnel should be alert to the warning signs of childhood and adolescent suicide and the procedures to follow in the event of an actual attempt or completion. Such signs and behavior shall be taken seriously and reported to the school administration and child study team who shall determine what further action is required. Other district employees may be used to intervene or assist with such situations. If emergency intervention is required, the pupil shall be taken to the appropriate medical facility.

In incidents of such potential self-destructive behavior, the pupil's parents/guardians shall be notified immediately and their cooperation shall be sought for immediate intervention. If the parent/guardian is unwilling to cooperate, the school administration and/or child study team shall contact appropriate agencies to request intervention on the pupil's behalf. In cases of child abuse or neglect, school personnel are required to contact the Division of Youth and Family Services.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop regulations to implement this policy. The regulations may include:

- A. Behavioral and emotional signs and symptoms of students who contemplates suicide
- B. Response procedures for intervention in threatened or attempted suicide
- C. Procedures for preventing contagion when a pupil commits suicide

The Superintendent shall disseminate this policy and regulations to the staff.

Adopted: 1994
NJSBA Review/Update: December 2008
Readopted: March 2009

Key Words

Suicide, Prevention, Crisis, Intervention

Cross References: *4131/4131.1 Staff Development; In-service Education
*5142 Pupil Safety
*6164.2 Guidance Services
*6164.4 Child Study Team