



## **SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

The Board of Education will take a pro-active posture in the prevention of youth suicide. The Board will provide training for teachers, administrators and guidance personnel in order to increase their awareness of the risk factors and behaviors that may indicate suicidal thinking. The Board recognizes, however, that suicide is a complex issue and that, while school personnel may recognize potentially suicidal youth, they may not make a clinical assessment of risk or provide in-depth counseling, but must refer the youth to an appropriate place for such assessment and counseling.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat must take the proper steps to report this information to the building principal or his/her designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student's family and appropriate resource services.

### **Administrative Regulations**

#### **Students**

#### **Suicide Prevention/Intervention**

##### **A. Prevention**

1. The K-12 Health curriculum will incorporate appropriate suicide prevention lessons.
2. The Board of Education, through its administration, will identify mental health clinics and other community resources that have expertise in the problem of youth suicide for the purpose of developing education and referral sources for the school district.
3. The Board of Education will develop in-service programs for teachers, administrators, and guidance personnel for the purpose of enhancing their ability to recognize those students who may be vulnerable to, or at risk, for suicide. Training will include, but may not be limited to, information about factors that increase a student's risk for suicide; recognition of the behavioral signs that may indicate that a student is suicidal; information on community resources available for students that may need assistance; information regarding school procedures for handling a suicidal student.
4. The Board of Education will make guidance resources available for students at

risk of suicide. The Board of Education will also make guidance resources available to students subsequent to a suicide attempt by one of their peers.

5. The Board of Education may establish a youth assistance program for the purpose of developing educational programs for students about the risk factors related to suicide and the community resources available for students who may need counseling.

## **B. Intervention**

If any member of the teaching, guidance, or administrative staff is confronted by a student who makes a statement of suicidal thinking or, for any other reason suspects that an attempt at suicide is possible, the following procedures must be implemented:

1. The principal of the building or the principal's designee must be advised immediately. If the principal is absent from the building and if there are no designees available, then the Superintendent must be notified.
2. The principal or designee will notify the school nurse and the school guidance counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker who will immediately meet with the student.
3. The student will be brought to the school nurse's office or the school office. Under no circumstances is the student to be left alone.
4. The student's parents/guardians will be notified.
5. The student's parents/guardians will be referred to a local physician or community agency for emergency intervention and counseling.
6. The parents/guardians will be asked to pick the student up from school. The student will not be allowed to go home alone.
7. The principal or his designee will be responsible for following up with the student's parents/guardians to ensure that a referral has been made.
8. The student will be monitored by school guidance personnel or social worker on a daily basis to assess if the threat of suicide continues. School personnel will maintain contact with the outside agency that is treating the student to support the treatment program.
9. If school staff has reason to believe that the student continues to have suicidal thoughts, and no referral has been made by the student's parents/guardians, the parents will be informed that their failure may constitute emotional neglect and a referral will be made to the Department of Children and Youth Services.
10. In the event any employee becomes aware that a student has attempted suicide, the principal and school nurse are to be notified immediately.
11. If the principal and school nurse determine that the student's medical or emotional condition requires hospitalization as a result of the suicide attempt, the parents/guardians will be contacted and the student will be transported immediately to an area hospital for medical treatment.

12. The student and his parents/guardians will be referred to a local physician or community agency for ongoing counseling.

### **C. Postvention**

1. There will be designated staff at each building who have been trained in postvention strategies and counseling techniques.
2. Policies governing crisis management procedures will be distributed to all staff.
3. Grief and loss support teams will be available.
4. Linkages with community resources will be established.

#### Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Policy 6180: Suicide Prevention Policy 6180 – Adopted September 2, 1992. Revised May 4, 1994. Revised and Approved June 15, 2011. Policy Number Changed to 5180 on September 22, 2021 on September 22, 2021 with BOE Approval.