

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 81, 193, 209 and 215]

5350 STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among ~~students children and adolescents~~. ~~A S~~students under severe stress cannot benefit fully from the educational program and may pose a threat to ~~themselves himself or herself~~ or others.

The Board directs all school ~~district staff members personnel~~ to be alert to ~~a the~~ student who exhibits ~~behavioral~~ warning signs of ~~potential~~ self-destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such **warning** signs or the report of such **warning** signs from another student or staff member ~~shall should~~ be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the ~~Building Principal or designee, who shall notify the student's parent and other professional staff members in accordance with administrative regulations.~~ **Principal or designee**.

The Principal or designee shall immediately contact the parent(s) of the ~~A potentially suicidal~~ student exhibiting warning signs of suicide to inform the parent(s) the student will shall be referred to the Child Study Team or a ~~Crisis Response Team~~ **Suicide Intervention Team appointed by the Superintendent or designee, for a preliminary assessment. Upon completion of the preliminary assessment, the Principal or designee shall meet with the parent(s) to review the assessment. Based on the preliminary assessment, the parent(s) may be required to obtain for** appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services **for the student.** In the event ~~that~~ the parent objects to the **recommendation recommended evaluation** or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the student, the ~~Child Study Team~~ **Principal or designee will may** contact the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency to request ~~that agency's~~ intervention on the student's behalf.

In the event the student is required to obtain medical or psychiatric services, the parent(s) will be required to submit to the Superintendent a written medical clearance from a licensed medical professional, selected by the parent(s) and approved by the Superintendent, indicating the student has received medical services, does not present a risk to themselves or others, and is cleared to return to school. The written medical clearance may be reviewed by a Board of Education healthcare professional before the student is permitted to return to school. The parent(s) shall be required to authorize their healthcare professional(s) to release



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relevant medical information to the school district's healthcare professional, if requested.

Any school district staff member, volunteer, or intern with reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, shall immediately report the information to the Principal or designee or their immediate supervisor who will immediately report it to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly report it online to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, or as otherwise required by the Department of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24i, any person who reports an attempted or completed suicide shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability on account of the report, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 and 18A:6-112, as part of the required professional development for teachers as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq., every teaching staff member must complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional with **training and** experience in mental health issues, in each professional development period. The instruction in suicide prevention shall include information on the relationship between the risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students who are members of communities identified as having members at high risk of suicide.

The Superintendent shall prepare and disseminate **guidelines to assist school district regulations for the guidance** of staff members in recognizing the **warning signs of a student who may be contemplating suicide, to respond to a threat in responding to threatened or attempted suicide, and to prevent in preventing contagion** when a student commits suicide.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112
N.J.S.A. 30:9A-23; 30:9A-24
N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq.

Adopted: 17 July 2012
Revised: 13 September 2016; _____

