

Policy

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

The Little Silver Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to respond appropriately to both anticipated and unforeseen events which lead to sudden, unexpected (or expected) tragic loss of life. The board also is aware that, as an educational community, all professional staff, students and non-professional personnel may be to some degree affected by traumatic events, and in the interest of maintaining good mental health and ensuring a safe environment within the schools, the board fully believes that a measured, sensitive, preventative approach is in the best interest of those so involved or affected in our community schools.

Student Suicide Prevention

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

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

A potentially suicidal student shall be referred to the Child Study Team for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services. In the event that the parent objects to the recommended evaluation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the student, the Child Study Team may contact the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency to request that agency's intervention on the student's behalf.

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 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 regulations for the guidance of staff members in recognizing the student who contemplates suicide, in responding to threatened or attempted suicide, and in preventing contagion when a student commits suicide.

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Key Words

Crisis, Self-Mutilation, Self Destructive, Suicide, Depression, Cutting

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND CRISIS INTERVENTION (CONTINUED)

Legal References:	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:62A-23 to 26	AED emergency medical services, 1999 statute
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-111 et seq.	Instruction in Suicide Prevention
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-113	Instruction in suicide prevention in public school curriculum
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:16-6, -6.1	Indemnity of officers and employees against civil actions
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.6 et seq.	<u>Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979</u>
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-1	Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-3	Lectures to teachers
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-5	Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-6	In general
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40A-1 et seq.	Substance Abuse
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 44:6-2	Maintenance by boards of education of clinics for indigent children
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 et seq.	Programs to Support Student Development
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1, -1.3, -1.4, -2.1, -2.3, -2.4	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.1 et seq.	Operation and Maintenance of School Facilities
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.3	

Possible

Cross References:	*1410	Local units
	*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
	*3516	Safety
	*4112.4/4212.4	Employee health
	*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	*5125	Student records
	*5131	Conduct/discipline
	*5131.1	Harassment, intimidation and bullying
	*5131.6	Substance abuse
	*5131.7	Weapons and dangerous instruments
	*5141.1	Accidents
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.21	Administering medication
	*5142	Student safety
	*5145.11	Questioning and apprehension
	*5145.12	Search and seizure
	*6142.4	Physical education and health

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.