

5350 PUPIL SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide and other self-destructive behaviors are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A pupil who suffers the psychological disability of depression or severe stress cannot benefit fully from the educational program of the schools, and a pupil who has attempted self-destruction poses a threat both to himself/herself and to other pupils.

The Board directs all school personnel to be alert to the pupil 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 pupil or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness and should be reported immediately to the Building Principal, who shall notify the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and other professional staff members in accordance with administrative regulations. The Principal may, if the circumstances so warrant, appoint a guidance counselor or other staff member to remain with the pupil. If, in the opinion of a member(s) of the Crisis Management Team, the pupil requires professional intervention, the pupil shall be referred to appropriate psychiatric services.

A potentially suicidal pupil shall be referred to the Crisis Management Team (school psychologist, social worker, guidance counselor or student assistance coordinator) for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services. In the event that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) objects to the recommended evaluation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the pupil, the Crisis Management Team member shall contact the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) to request that agency's intervention on the pupil'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:9-15.1 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 pupils who are members of communities identified as having members at high risk of suicide.



POLICY

HOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUPILS
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Pupil Suicide Prevention

The Superintendent shall, in consultation with the Student Assistance Coordinator, prepare and disseminate regulations and training for the guidance of staff members in recognizing the pupil who contemplates suicide, in responding to threatened or attempted suicide, and in preventing contagion when a pupil commits suicide.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112
N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.1 et seq.

Adopted: 03 January 2013

