

Policy

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Mainland Regional High School Board of Education believes the physical and mental well-being of all pupils must be maintained as a prerequisite to achievement in education. The Board endeavors to ensure the appropriate awareness regarding adolescent suicide by establishing developing and implementing suicide awareness and prevention programs in this school district.

The Board believes that the staff, pupils, and the school community can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of adolescent suicide. The Board directs the Superintendent or his or her designee to develop and implement a comprehensive suicide awareness and prevention program.

The Board directs that:

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, which will 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.

All school personnel are 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 or designee and when indicated, contact the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and other professional staff members in accordance with administrative regulations.

A potentially suicidal student shall be referred to the Child Study Team psychologist or social worker for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services. If a determination is made that the student should receive psychiatric assessment, the student must be released directly to the parent and the parent will be required to come to school immediately. The psychiatrist must designate in writing that the student is not in danger of harming himself/herself or others before the student may return to school. If such evaluation is mandated and conducted by a psychiatrist designated by the school, the expense of the initial evaluation shall be covered by the Board of Education. If the parents choose their own psychiatrist, they must assume the expense of this evaluation.

Refusal or failure by the parent or guardian to comply with the school's recommendations to seek an evaluation and/or intervention shall be deemed a violation of child neglect (N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq.) laws. The principal or his/her designee shall notify the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS) of the parent's refusal to comply.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations and procedures for the implementation of the program. The policy and procedure shall be disseminated to staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

Adopted: 12/19/16, 01/17/17
NJSBA Review/Update:
Readopted:

SUICIDE PREVENTION (continued)

Key Words

Suicide, Crisis, Suicidal Ideation, Staff Training

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-12
N.J.S.A. 6A:9-15.1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq.

Possible

Cross References:

- *5020 Role of parents/guardians
- *5113 Absences and excuses
- *5114 Suspension and expulsion
- *5120 Assessment of individual needs
- *5124 Reporting to parents/guardians
- *5125 Student records
- *5131 Conduct/discipline
- *5131.6 Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
- *5141 Student health
- *5142 Safety
- *6164.2 Guidance services
- *6171.1 Remedial instruction
- *6171.2 Gifted and talented
- *6172 Alternative educational programs
- *6173 Home instruction

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