

5350 PUPIL SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Black Horse Pike Regional Board of Education believes the physical and mental well being of pupils must be maintained as a prerequisite to academic achievement. Recognizing that adolescent suicide can be considered and carried out by young people, the Board wishes to establish appropriate awareness and prevention programs.

Because the entire staff of the district, as well as pupils, can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of adolescent suicide, and the success of such an effort depends upon the understanding and support of the total community, the Board directs the Superintendent or designee to develop and implement a comprehensive and continuing adolescent suicide awareness and prevention program. The Superintendent shall work with the Principals, Guidance Directors, and counselors to identify community mental health agencies to provide assistance and establish cooperative relationships with those agencies.

The program shall help the staff, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and pupils to:

1. Understand the normal development stages of adolescence and the cause of teen suicide;
2. Recognize the early warning signs of adolescent suicide;
3. Learn how to assist in a suicide crisis;
4. Identify community resources that can help a suicidal person; and
5. Address the repercussions of such a tragedy.

The Superintendent also shall develop an appropriate administrative procedure to address suicide prevention and distribute the procedure to appropriate school personnel.

Adopted: 9 April 2009

5350 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.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112

N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq.



POLICY

BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Adopted:

