

Policy

CRISIS INTERVENTION

The board of education believes the physical and mental well-being of all pupils must be maintained as a prerequisite to achievement through the formal educational process.

Recognizing that the incidence of adolescent suicide is on the rise, the board wishes to insure appropriate awareness and prevention programs are initiated and continued in the this school district.

***Recommendation:** Recognizing that the incidence of adolescent suicide is increasing, the board wishes to ensure that levels of appropriate awareness are established and that prevention programs are initiated, developed and continuously implemented to address this serious concern.*

Because it believes that the entire staff of the district, as well as the pupils, can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of adolescent suicide, and the success of such an effort depends to large extent upon the understanding and support of the total community, the board directs the superintendent to develop and implement a comprehensive and continuing adolescent suicide awareness and prevention program for the entire school community. Since the necessary professional expertise to carry out such a program may be adequately available within the school system, it also directs the superintendent to identify a community mental health agency able to provide the necessary assistance and to establish a continuing cooperative relationship with them in this effort.

The board of education directs that the program developed help the school staff, parents/guardians and pupils to:

- A. Understand the developmental stages of adolescence and the causes of teen suicide;
- B. Recognize the early warning signs of adolescent suicide;
- C. Learn how to help in a suicidal crisis;
- D. Identify community resources and procedures that can help a suicidal person.

The superintendent shall also develop appropriate administrative regulations and procedures for the implementation of the program and *ensure* their dissemination to staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

Date: April 27, 1993
Review/Update by NJSBA: January 2008
Readopted: May 19, 2008

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:1011-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 30:9A-12 Youth suicide prevention program