
Instruction Guidance And Counseling

Suicide Awareness and Prevention:

Staff members shall be made aware of their responsibilities in the event of a potential or imminent suicide incident. Staff are expected to follow the procedures as specified. Three steps are vital in a suicide prevention program:

- A. ensuring the short-term physical safety of the student;
- B. communicating with appropriate school personnel, parents/guardians and local support personnel and establishing an interim plan of action; and,
- C. referring to appropriate professional or agency and implementing a long-term plan of action.

The following procedures are intended to serve these purposes.

POTENTIAL SUICIDE--NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Any staff member who receives or discovers information about a potential suicide (notes, threats, conversations, etc.) will immediately notify the principal.

Suicidal Ideation (Verbal threat or communication of possible suicidal intent--Having thoughts of killing oneself).

- A. Any suggestion, demonstration, or communication of an intention to commit suicide must be taken seriously.
- B. Such behavior shall be reported to the principal, school psychologist, and to the impact team, who will act as an intervention team. The situation will be evaluated by this team through contacts with the student, parents, and other staff.
- C. The superintendent, with the school psychologist, school nurse, and principal, shall be apprised of the situation and of the plan for monitoring the student's behavior.
- D. Confidentiality is not applicable when the student threatens himself (or others). In such circumstances no matter what guarantees of privacy have been given the student, the information must be discussed with the appropriate staff. Parents or guardians shall be notified. Referral to an outside agency or private professional shall be made in cooperation with the parents. If it is determined that the student is seriously in need of professional intervention, and the parent refuses to cooperate, appropriate agencies shall be contacted by the school administration to intervene on the student's behalf.
- E. The school administration shall monitor the student's functioning in school until a positive adjustment is evident.