

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

PUPILS
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Pupil Suicide Prevention
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5350 PUPIL SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A pupil 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 pupil who exhibits behavioral warning signs of potential self-destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or ~~the report of any such signs received from any source~~ report of such signs from another pupil or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the building principal or designee, who shall notify the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and other professional staff members in accordance with administrative regulations.

A potentially suicidal pupil shall be interviewed by a designated psychologist and/or social worker referred to the Child Study Team for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services, in accordance with law. A list of designated psychologists and social workers will be developed in consultation with the Director of Special Services at the beginning of each school year and will be maintained in each school building. 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 ~~Child Study Team~~ principal or designee may contact ~~the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, (CP&P) Youth and Family Services~~ to request ~~that the~~ the agency's intervention on the pupil's behalf.

In accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A 18A:6-111 and 18A:6-112, as part of the required professional development for teachers as outlined in the 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.

The Superintendent shall prepare and disseminate regulations 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.

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