
POLICY

Nutley Public Schools

Section 5350

Page 1 of 2

STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION

5350 STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among students. Students under severe stress cannot benefit fully from the educational program and may pose a threat to themselves or others.

The Board directs all school district staff members to be alert to a student who exhibits warning signs of self-destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such warning signs or the report of such warning signs from another student or staff member shall be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the Principal or designee.

The Principal or designee shall immediately attempt to contact the parent(s) of the student exhibiting warning signs of suicide to inform the parent(s) the student will be referred to the School Crisis Team, appointed by the Superintendent or designee, to conduct a preliminary assessment. Upon completion of the preliminary assessment, the Principal or designee shall contact the parent(s) to review the results of the preliminary assessment. Based on the preliminary assessment, the parent(s) may be required to obtain medical or psychiatric services for the student. If it is determined that a student may pose a danger to themselves or others, the Principal or designee shall immediately notify the Superintendent or designee who will notify local law enforcement. In the event the parent objects to the recommendation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the student, the Principal or designee will contact the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency to request intervention on the student's behalf and notify local law enforcement.

In the event that a potential risk is reported outside of school hours and/or if the student is not present for a preliminary assessment, the Principal or designee shall **immediately** notify the Superintendent or designee who will notify local law enforcement.

In the event the student is required to obtain medical or psychiatric services, the parent(s) will be required to submit to the Superintendent or designee a written medical clearance from a licensed mental health professional selected by the parent(s) and approved by the Superintendent or designee, indicating the student has received medical services, does not present a risk to themselves or others, and is cleared to return to school. The written medical clearance may be reviewed by a Board of Education healthcare professional before the student is permitted to return to school. The parent(s) shall be required to authorize their healthcare professional(s) to release relevant medical information to the school district's healthcare professional, if requested.



POLICY

Nutley Public Schools

Section 5350

Page 2 of 2

STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION

Clearance from a mental health professional must be provided to the Principal or designee for review. Upon review of documentation, the Principal or designee will contact the parent(s) to schedule a re-entry meeting. During the re-entry meeting, the Principal or designee at least one member of the School Crisis Team will establish a written re-entry plan with the student and parent(s).

Any school district staff member, volunteer, or intern with reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, shall immediately report the information to the Principal or designee or their immediate supervisor who will immediately report it to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly report it online to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, or as otherwise required by the Department POLICY Nutley Public Schools Student Suicide Prevention 5350 Page 2 of 2 Student Suicide Prevention of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24i, any person who reports an attempted or completed suicide shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability on account of the report, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

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:9C3 et seq., every teaching staff member and anyone who comes in close or daily contact must complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional with training and 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 guidelines to assist school district staff members in recognizing the warning signs of a student who may be contemplating suicide, to respond to a threat or attempted suicide, and to prevent contagion when a student commits suicide.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112 N.J.S.A. 30:9A-23; 30:9A-24 N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq.

Adopted: 10 June 2013

Revised: 9 Sep 2019

