

POLICY

Nutley Public Schools
Pupils
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Pupil Suicide Prevention

PUPIL 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/herself or others. It is the policy of the Board of Education to actively respond in any situation where a student verbally or behaviorally indicates an intent to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself or others.

The Board directs all school personnel to be alert to the student who exhibits signs of potential self-destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student, staff member, parent, or other concerned adult should be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the building principal or designee who shall notify the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and other professional staff members in accordance with administrative regulations.

A potentially suicidal student shall be referred to the appropriate/designated Crisis Team member(s), which may include the Student Assistance Coordinator, School Psychologist, School Social Worker, School Counselor, School Nurse, and a school administrator for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent mental health or psychiatric services. In the event that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) refuses to proceed with an evaluation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the student, the Crisis Team may contact the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services to request that agency's intervention on the student's behalf. The Crisis Team may also send the student out for immediate assessment by a medical health facility if they deem the threat imminent.

The district will provide 2 hours of suicide prevention instruction to teaching staff members and administrators as per N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111. In addition, 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 prevention contagion when a student commits suicide.

Adopted: 10 June 2013

