

Suicide Prevention

Staff members shall be sensitive to student behavior indicating significant depression or emotional upset. Whenever staff members become aware of student behavior that might reasonably indicate a potential for suicide or suicidal gestures, or whenever student behavior indicates the possibility of such an act, these steps should be taken:

1. The Principal, director of special services, social worker and psychologist will be notified of staff observations and/or concerns.
2. The Director of Shared Services, or in his/her absence the Principal, will designate one of the special personnel named above as "Primary Counselor".
3. Parents/guardians will be notified immediately by the Principal or designee.
4. The Primary Counselor will meet with the student and follow up with parents/guardians on his/her observations. If there is any indication of self-destructive acts, the Primary Counselor will request that parents/guardians to meet with school personnel and will advise the parents/guardians that the student should see a psychiatrist or other qualified counselor. If the parents/guardians cannot be contacted or if they decline to meet with school personnel, the Primary Counselor will notify the Director of Shared Services and DCF.
5. A follow-up letter will be sent to parents/guardians confirming the advice given and action taken.
6. As determined by the Primary Counselor, appropriate teachers will be notified that the student should be observed carefully and that staff members should report any unusual behavior or any absences immediately to the Principal.
7. The Primary Counselor will maintain contact with the student and his/her parents and serve as liaison between any outside counselors and the school. The Director of Shared Services, the Principal and the Superintendent will be kept informed of significant developments.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures

Board Adopted: November 13, 2013