

Students

SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND RESPONSE

5141.5(a)

The Fairfield Board of Education recognizes the need for a comprehensive suicide prevention, intervention and response policy given that suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people and that school, a structure in which students have frequent contact with caring adults, has a unique role to play in suicide prevention and intervention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2001).

The Board of Education recognizes the need for evidence-based youth suicide prevention programs and procedures and will establish program guidelines to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, guide staff in making appropriate referrals to outside agencies, and collaborate with agencies and families once care has been established. These evidence-based programs will include universal prevention strategies (curriculum-based) as well as tiered interventions for students/groups of students at statistically increased risk. This (These) program(s) will include annual training for certified staff, non-certified instructional staff, school secretaries, school nurses, coaches, students, and parents. Training will include current information on recognizing risk factors, appropriate referral processes, and crisis response.

It is also recognized by the Board of Education that suicide is a complex issue, and that, while school staff members may recognize potentially suicidal youth, they cannot make clinical assessment of risk and/or provide in-depth treatment. It is the policy of the Board of Education that school staffs actively respond in any situation where a student, either verbally or through behavior, indicates a risk or intent to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself by referring said youth to an appropriate provider/agency for such assessment and treatment as is deemed appropriate.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide risk, threat or intent will immediately report this information to the school Principal/Headmaster. The School Principal/Headmaster or his/her designee will immediately mobilize the Student Assistance Team as described in the Administrative Regulations. This team will:

- Notify the student's parent/guardian, and;
- Make an appropriate referral to community-based services
- Assign Case Manager
- Establish a follow-up plan

If deemed at high risk, the student shall not be left alone at any time during this assessment process.

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5141.5(b)

(continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures. (e) Re "policy and procedures for dealing with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts."

Adopted 5/24/2011