



STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

Policy Code: 4250

The Board believes that suicidal ideation and/or gestures constitute a serious problem requiring competent professional evaluation and intervention by qualified mental health professionals. In keeping with this belief, the Board adopts this policy to help ensure that students expressing self-destructive feelings or exhibiting self-destructive behavior receive proper care.

DEFINITIONS

1. Suicidal Crisis - A situation where suicidal ideation and/or behavior occurs.
2. Suicidal Gesture - An act of bodily harm or intended bodily harm with the expressed intent of suicide.
3. Suicidal Ideation - (plans specific) - Thoughts and feelings which, when expressed, communicate a plan for self-harm resulting in death.
4. Suicidal Ideation - (non-plan specific) Thoughts and feelings which communicate no specific plan but do express a desire to harm self resulting in death.
5. Qualified Mental Health Professional - Any person possessing a current license from a board of practitioners under the State of North Carolina in one of the following disciplines-psychology, psychiatry, counseling, or social work
6. Suicidal Crisis Incident Report - A written report documenting the events relevant to the suicidal crisis.

Any school employee who becomes knowledgeable of a student contemplating or having made a suicidal gesture is responsible to immediately notify the principal or his or her designee of the situation. Such notification will include an immediate verbal report followed by a written suicidal crisis incident report within the school day.

Trained Student Services staff will meet with the student to explore the observed suicidal behavior and will follow the appropriate procedures.

Parents will be contacted regarding their child's crisis and to discuss the appropriate course of action. The course of action will include obtaining an evaluation for the student from a qualified mental health professional within 24 hours, thus ensuring the safety and proper care of the student. Upon completion of the evaluation, documentation of the evaluation is to be furnished to the principal or designee by the parent or guardian in order to plan accordingly for the student's needs. The counselor will make every effort to talk to the mental health professional concerning the student prior to the evaluation, the forthcoming treatments, and implications for returning to school.

Adopted: 01/10/00

Revised: 02/12/07