

Students

Suicide Prevention and Intervention

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that, while the school may recognize potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling but must refer the youth to an appropriate place for such assessment and counseling.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat or attempt must report this information to the building principal and the appropriate special services staff member who will in turn, notify the student's family.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

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Administrative Procedures

1. Response to any attempted suicide by a student, whether or not a medical emergency, the following procedure will be undertaken:
 - A. In the event the staff member perceives that a student has taken action which creates a medical emergency, the school nurse will be notified immediately and emergency medical procedures will be followed.
 - B. The staff member will refer the student to the principal or his/her designee.
 - C. The principal or his/her designee will then contact the appropriate special services staff member.
 - D. The special services staff member will contact the parent or guardian as soon as possible to share all pertinent information.
 - E. If the student remains at the school, under no circumstances should he/she be allowed to be alone or go home alone. The student must be released only to a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.
 - F. If reasonable attempts to reach the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult in whose custody the student may be released are not successful, the case will be treated as a medical emergency and arrangements will be made to transport the student to an area hospital emergency room or mental health facility.
 - G. Before the student returns to school, the assigned special services staff member will contact the parents to determine what subsequent action has occurred.
 - H. Upon return to school, the child shall be referred to the PPT process.
 - I. A detailed report will be written and submitted to the Director of Pupil Personnel Services within twenty-four hours by the department worker who assumes responsibility for the case. The report shall include:
 - (1) name of the student,
 - (2) name of the staff member(s) involved,
 - (3) time and date of all conferences,
 - (4) summary of all conferences, and

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Administrative Procedures (continued)

- (5) recommendations made to parents, student and building staff.
 - J. The student shall be readmitted to school.
 - K. Failure on the part of the family to take seriously and provide for the safety of the student in case of potential suicide will be considered emotional neglect and reported to the Department of Children and Families. (cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse and Neglect). In addition, if school staff has reason to believe that the circumstances surrounding the student's contemplation of or attempt at suicide are related to abuse or neglect, the staff member must report the matter as specified under statute and board policy.
2. Response to a staff member's serious concern that a student may be contemplating suicide or that an attempt is possible:
- A. The staff members immediately will refer the student to the principal or his/her designee.
 - B. The principal or his/her designee will then contact the appropriate special services staff member.
 - C. The special services staff member will meet with the student as soon as possible to determine the nature of the problem.
 - D. The special services staff member should contact the parent or guardian as soon as possible to share all pertinent information and to advise that an evaluation is needed.
 - E. Under no circumstances should the student be allowed to be alone or to go home alone. The student must be released only to a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.
 - F. Before the student returns to school, the assigned special services staff member will contact the parents to determine what subsequent action has occurred.

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Administrative Procedures (continued)

- G. A detailed report will be written and submitted to the Director of Pupil Personnel Services within twenty-four hours by the department worker who assumes responsibility for the case. The report shall include:
 - (1) name of the student,
 - (2) name of the staff member(s) involved,
 - (3) time and date of all conferences,
 - (4) summary of all conferences, and
 - (5) recommendations made to parents, student and building staff.
- H. The student shall be readmitted to school.
- I. Failure on the part of the family to take seriously and provide for the safety of the student in case of potential suicide will be considered emotional neglect and reported to the Department of Children and Families. (cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse). In addition, if school staff has reason to believe that the circumstances surrounding the student's contemplation of or attempt at suicide are related to abuse or neglect, the staff member must report the matter as specified under statute and board policy.

Management of Suicide in the Schools

If suicide by a student or staff member occurs, the Superintendent of Schools shall be notified immediately.

- 1. Communication
 - A. All requests for information will be directed to the Superintendent or designee.
 - B. The building principal will assemble administrative staff to plan and implement an Action Plan. The Director of Pupil Services will participate in this meeting and coordinate resources, if necessary.
 - C. The Action Plan may include provisions for group discussions as well as individual sessions with students and staff.

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Management of Suicide in the Schools

- D. Following a suicide, the atmosphere in school can be a critical factor in preventing additional suicides. Some students will be affected more than others, and the impact might surface in different ways. Students should be allowed to discuss their feelings of loss without embarrassment but should not be forced to participate in such discussions. Any discussions of a suicide should be tailored to the age, maturity and needs of the student(s) involved.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Regulation approved: August 21, 1990
Regulation revised: June 14, 1993

MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Milford, Connecticut