

STUDENTS WITH SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIORS

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. Students may be defined as at-risk who experience severe family crises; drug and alcohol abuse; (see Policy Nos. 5131.7-1 and 5131.6); suicide ideations, gestures, and attempts; and severe emotional traumas. A pupil under severe stress cannot benefit fully from the educational program and may pose a threat to himself or herself or others.

The Board directs all school personnel to be alert to the pupil who exhibits signs of potential self-destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another pupil or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the building principal, who will notify the pupil’s parent and other professional staff members in accordance with administrative regulations.

The child study team will be consulted for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services for a potentially at-risk pupil. In the event that the parent or guardian objects to the recommended evaluation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the pupil, school personnel should contact the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services to request that agency’s intervention on the pupil’s behalf.

The Superintendent will, in consultation with appropriate teaching staff members and mental health organizations, develop and implement a program for pupils exhibiting self-destructive behaviors in grades K through 8. The program will address problems of depression, help pupils toward alternative ways of resolving stressful situations, and encourage pupils to help one another.

The Superintendent shall prepare and disseminate regulations for the guidance of staff members in recognizing the pupil who displays self-destructive behaviors, which may pose a threat to himself and others.

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