

Students

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that, while the school may recognize a potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make a clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling. Instead, the Board directs school staff to refer students who may be at risk of attempting suicide to an appropriate service for professional assessment, counseling and treatment services outside of the school.

The Board of Education recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish student assistance program(s) to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, referral services and training for teachers, other school professionals and students to provide assistance in these programs.

Risk factors for youth suicide will be based on the statewide strategic suicide prevention plan developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, which includes, but is not limited to youth who are:

1. bereaved by suicide,
2. disabled or have chronic health conditions, such as mental health or substance use disorders,
3. involved in the juvenile justice system,
4. experiencing homelessness or placed in an out-of-home setting, such as foster care, or
5. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning.

To that end, the Board directs the Superintendent to implement an assessment recommended by the Connecticut State Department of Education for determining suicide risk. The assessment shall be used to determine the suicide risk of students who:

- a. exhibit mental health distress,
- b. have been identified as at risk of suicide, or
- c. are considered to be at an increased risk of suicide based on particular risk factors.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat, attempt or ideation must take the proper steps to immediately report this information to the building Principal or his/her designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the Crisis Intervention Team, the student's family and appropriate resource services outside and within the school system.

In addition, information regarding the 988 crisis line should be made widely available in schools and district offices. Text should note to call 988 if you are in emotional distress and/or you are having suicidal ideations. It should also include that by calling 988, you will be provided with support and connected to resources if needed.

Information concerning a student's suicide attempt, threat, or risk will be shared with others to the degree necessary to protect that student and others.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Policy Adopted: 6/20/90
Policy Revised:

GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Granby, CT

Students

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

A. Prevention

1. The K-12 Health curriculum will incorporate appropriate suicide prevention lessons.
2. The District, through its administration, will identify mental health clinics and other community resources that have expertise in the problem of youth suicide for the purpose of developing education and referral sources for the school district.
3. The District will develop in-service programs for teachers, administrators, and counseling personnel for the purpose of enhancing their ability to recognize those students who may be vulnerable to, or at risk, for suicide. Training will include, but may not be limited to, information about factors that increase a student's risk for suicide; recognition of the behavioral signs that may indicate that a student is suicidal; information on community resources available for students that may need assistance; information regarding school procedures for handling a suicidal student.
4. The District will make counseling resources available for students at risk of suicide. The Board of Education will also make counseling resources available to students subsequent to a suicide attempt by one of their peers.
5. The District may establish a youth assistance program for the purpose of developing educational programs for students about the risk factors related to suicide and the community resources available for students who may need counseling.

B. Intervention

If any member of the teaching, counseling, or administrative staff is confronted by a student who makes a statement of suicidal thinking or, for any other reason suspects that an attempt at suicide is possible, the following procedures must be implemented:

1. The principal of the building or the principal's designee must be advised immediately. If the principal is absent from the building and if there are no designees available, then the Superintendent must be notified.

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Intervention (Continued)

2. The principal or designee will notify the school nurse and the school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker who will immediately meet with the student.
3. The student will be brought to the school nurse's office or the school office. Under no circumstances is the student to be left alone.
4. The student's parents/guardians will be notified.
5. The student's parents/guardians will be referred to a local physician or community agency for emergency intervention and counseling.
6. The parents/guardians will be asked to pick the student up from school. The student will not be allowed to go home alone.
7. The principal or his designee will be responsible for following up with the student's parents/guardians to ensure that a referral has been made.
8. The student will be monitored by school counseling personnel or social worker on a daily basis to assess if the threat of suicide continues. School personnel will maintain contact with the outside agency that is treating the student to support the treatment program.
9. If school staff has reason to believe that the student continues to have suicidal thoughts, and no referral has been made by the student's parents/guardians, the parents will be informed that their failure may constitute emotional neglect and a referral will be made to the Department of Children and Youth Services.
10. In the event any employee becomes aware that a student has attempted suicide, the principal and school nurse are to be notified immediately.
11. If the principal and school nurse determine that the student's medical or emotional condition requires hospitalization as a result of the suicide attempt, the parents/guardians will be contacted and the student will be transported immediately to an area hospital for medical treatment.
12. The student and his parents/guardians will be referred to a local physician or community agency for ongoing counseling.

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C. Postvention

1. There will be designated staff at each building who have been trained in postvention strategies and counseling techniques.
2. Policies governing crisis management procedures will be distributed to all staff.
3. Grief and loss support teams will be available.
4. Linkages with community resources will be established.

**Regulation approved: 6/20/90
Regulation revised:**

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Granby, CT**