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Series 5000
Students

[NOTE TO CLIENT: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221(f) requires boards of education to adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. State law also authorizes, but does not require, boards of education to (1) establish a student assistance program to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youths, referral services, and training for staff and students who provide assistance in the program, and (2) use an assessment to determine youth suicide risk, in accordance with statutory requirements. Our model policy and administrative regulations are one way in which boards of education can meet Section 10-221(f)'s requirements for adopting a policy and procedures regarding suicide prevention. In reviewing, revising and implementing policy and procedures regarding youth suicide prevention and intervention, we recommend that the Board and the District work closely with the school medical advisor, if any, and other qualified mental health professionals, as these policies, regulations and procedures are informed by both medical and mental health best practices as well as legal recommendations.]

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The _____ Board of Education (the "Board") recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that schools are not mental health treatment centers. The _____ Public Schools (the "District") cannot be expected to thoroughly evaluate and eliminate suicidal risk. Nevertheless, school personnel may become aware of specific factual circumstances in which a student has communicated a suicidal intent or other specific circumstances in which a student is perceived by school staff to be at risk for suicide. In such cases, the Board is committed to respond in a supportive manner, both aggressively and immediately, to a student who has attempted, has threatened, or who communicates that they are considering attempting suicide.

Any Board employee who has knowledge that a student has made a suicidal threat or attempt or exhibited suicidal ideation must immediately report this information to the building principal or designee, who will, in turn, notify **[appropriate Pupil Personnel Services staff] [the designated Crisis Intervention Team] [the Student Assistance Team]. [PPS staff] [The CIT] [The SAT]**, with administrative assistance, if necessary, will contact the student's family and appropriate resources within and outside the school system, as permitted by law. The Board further directs the school staff to refer students who come to their attention as being at risk of attempting suicide for professional

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assessment and treatment services outside of the school. Information concerning a student's suicide attempt, threat or risk will be shared with others only as permitted by state and federal law.

In recognition of the need for youth suicide prevention procedures, the Board directs the Superintendent or designee to adopt and maintain administrative regulations addressing youth suicide prevention.

[OPTIONAL: In consultation with the District's medical advisor and other qualified mental health professionals, the District may also establish a student assistance program, in accordance with statutory requirements, to identify risk factors for youth suicide; procedures to intervene with such youths; referral services; and training for teachers and other school professionals and students who provide assistance in the program.]

Training will be provided for teachers, other school staff, and students regarding the prevention of and response to youth suicide.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220a
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221(f)
Public Act 23-167, "An Act Concerning Transparency in Education."

ADOPTED:_____
REVISED:_____

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