

## STUDENT SUICIDE

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A student who suffers the psychological disability of depression cannot benefit fully from the educational program of the schools, and a student who has attempted self-destruction poses a danger both to himself/herself and to other students.

~~The Board directs a~~ All school personnel ~~to~~ should be alert to the student who exhibits signs of unusual depression or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness.

District staff ~~shall~~ may receive professional development training in the risk factors, warning signs for suicide and depression and about the protective factors that help prevent suicide, as well as the available resources regarding youth suicide awareness and prevention. Such training ~~shall~~ may include the warnings signs of non-suicidal self-injurious behaviors.

Additional professional development training in suicide risk assessment and intervention shall be provided to counselors and psychologists.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative guidelines whereby members of the professional staff understand how to use an intervention procedure which includes the following:

Step 1 - Stabilization

Step 2 ~~-~~ Assessment of the Risk ~~Communication with Appropriate Parties~~

Step 3 ~~-~~ Use of Appropriate Risk Procedure ~~Follow-up~~

Step 4 – Communication with Appropriate Parties

Step 5 – Follow-up

If instruction is provided for students on the dangers of depression and suicide through age appropriate programs, such instruction shall focus on:

- A. awareness of the risks and warning signs;

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- B. access to appropriate prevention services;
- C. prevention of suicidal behaviors among students.

Parents/Guardians shall be notified of any suicide prevention instruction provided to their children ~~at a~~ using the communication method used for regular communication with parents in that particular building.

Throughout any response, it is essential that Board policies and District guidelines regarding confidentiality be observed at all times.

M.C.L.A. 380.1171 (Chase Edwards Law)  
Kelson v City of Springfield, 767 F2d 651 (9th Cir. 1985)

Revised 10/8/07  
Revised

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