

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.:	245
Section:	PUPILS
Title:	SUICIDE PREVENTION AND SELF-HARMING BEHAVIOR
Date Adopted:	4/21/86
Date Last Revised:	6/8/15; 9/21/09

245 SUICIDE PREVENTION AND SELF-HARMING BEHAVIOR

Statement of Policy

The Board, recognizing the significantly high national rate of adolescent suicide and other self-harming behavior, is committed to addressing suicide and other self-harming behavior on a District level. The Board also recognizes its responsibility to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention and to establish methods of suicide prevention, intervention and response.

Although the District is not legally responsible for student self-harming behavior occurring on District premises or during school-sponsored events away from the building and grounds, all efforts will be made to ensure the safety of students.

The Board is committed to the inclusion in the health curriculum of appropriate topics/activities relating to positive mental health, the warning signs of suicide and other self-harming behavior and information regarding sources of help for students.

The Board values personnel who are both sensitive to student needs and willing to extend themselves to meet those needs.

The Board is committed to the education of school personnel in the warning signs of suicide and other self-harming behavior, procedures to follow in the event of a suicide attempt or completion, and techniques to enhance positive mental health.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop guidelines and procedures, in compliance with state law and regulations, utilizing a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention which integrates school and community-based supports.

Delegation of Responsibility

The implementation of the policy shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent.

The Director of Student Services is responsible for the preparation of guidelines related to self-harming behavior and for the periodic in-service training of employees.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for the preparation of a curriculum which emphasizes positive mental health, describes the warning signs of self-harming behavior and provides information regarding sources of help for students.

School Principals are responsible for following the prescribed guidelines and insuring the implementation of the curriculum.

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School Principals shall be assisted by a Crisis Intervention Team established in each school.

- a) The Crisis Intervention team shall consist of the school principal, school counseling staff, the psychologist assigned to the school, the certified school nurse, school social worker, and other identified staff members. (Other staff members may be included as part of the team based on student need as identified on a case-by-case basis.)
- b) Staff members identified as significant as set forth in the preceding sentence shall be reviewed annually.