

**Series 5000 – Students**

**1. Elementary and Secondary**

**D. Welfare**

**(1) School Medical Advisor**

**(l) Suicide Prevention/Intervention**

**Management of Suicidal Risk**

The school cannot be expected to thoroughly evaluate and eliminate suicidal risk. Nevertheless, the Board is committed to respond in a supportive manner, both aggressively and immediately, to a student who has attempted, has threatened, or is seriously considering attempting suicide. The following procedures shall be implemented toward this end.

1. Any staff member who becomes aware of a student who may be at risk of suicide must immediately notify the building principal or his/her designee. This must be done even if the student has confided in the staff person and asked that his/her communication be kept confidential. The principal or designee will then notify the Director of Pupil Personnel Services and appropriate Pupil Personnel Services staff member(s). (Note: The principal may have multiple designees.)
2. The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member shall interview the student, consider available background information and determine whether the student is “at risk” or in “imminent danger.”
3. If the student is assessed to be “at risk”:
  - A. The student will be monitored by an adult in a safe environment until further steps are taken.
  - B. The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member shall notify the student’s parent/guardian and request a meeting with them as soon as possible, preferably that same day.
  - C. When the parent/guardian arrives at school, the principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member shall meet with him/her to discuss:
    1. the seriousness of the situation;
    2. the need for an immediate suicide risk evaluation at a medical or mental health facility, or other appropriate evaluation(s);
    3. the need for continued monitoring of the student at home if he/she is released following the evaluation;
    4. referral to appropriate professional services outside the school system; and

5. a request for the parent/guardian to sign a release of information form permitting communication between the school and the facility to which the student will be taken, the student's therapist and other appropriate individuals.
- D. The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member shall document in writing the course of events, including what transpired at the meeting, and the outcome.
- The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member shall inform the principal and Director of Pupil Personnel Services of the course of events and the outcome.
- F. The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member may notify other staff, as necessary, to protect the student and others.
- G. The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member may refer the student to the school's Student Assistance Team, Planning and Placement Team or other staff as appropriate for further consultation and planning.
- H. If the parent/guardian is unable to come to school:
1. The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member shall provide, over the telephone, information as to available resources outside and within the school system, and shall plan follow-up contacts.
  2. The principal designated Pupil Personnel Services staff member will notify the parent/guardian of his/her intent to contact the community emergency mobile crisis team and/or arrange transport of the student to an appropriate evaluation/treatment site by means of emergency vehicle (e.g.; ambulance or police cruiser).

Suicide Education/Prevention – Students and Staff

1. As part of the Suffield Public Schools' Health Education Curriculum, students will be educated systematically regarding suicide risk factors and danger signals, and how they might appropriately respond if confronted with suicidal behavior, verbalizations, or thoughts, according to CT General Statute 10-16.B – Prescribed Courses of Study.
2. Annually, in-service training for school staff will be held in each school building to discuss suicide risk factors, danger signals, and the procedures outlined in these regulations.

Regulation adopted: August 23, 1990  
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SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
 Suffield, Connecticut