

Adopted: February 18, 1997
Revised: _____
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District 77 Policy 534

534 STRESS MANAGEMENT/SUICIDE

I. PURPOSE

District 77 recognizes that stress and suicide are serious problems that may be, and sometimes are, an impediment to the entire education process within the district. Therefore, the purpose of this policy is to establish District 77's role in dealing with stress management and suicide.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Though the primary responsibility for dealing with health related concerns is with the student and his or her parents/guardians, it will be the policy of the school district to inform students and their parents/guardians of the emotional, physical, economic, and social problems which are related to stress and suicide, and to provide assistance in securing medical attention, counseling, or other services to those in need.

III. STUDENT ASSISTANCE TEAM

The Student Assistance Team may be composed of the following: Building Administrator, Counselor, Nurse, School Psychologist, School Social Worker, Human Services Representative, Community member, Faculty Representative, Health Education Teacher. The membership of this team will be the decision of the building administrator. The building administrator shall designate the interventionist for the team who will act as case manager for the student.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The policy on stress management and suicide will be implemented through:

1. Primary Prevention
Provide a curriculum and experiences which promote positive health attitudes and present the appropriate information necessary for students to make responsible decisions regarding stress and suicide.
2. In-Service Education
Implement an in-service training program for staff in the area of stress/suicide.

3. Early Intervention
The Student Assistance Team will be responsible for addressing reports of students with stress/suicide related problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the reported cases. It is the role of District 77 to assist in the identification of students with stress related problems and refer to Human Services when appropriate.
4. Crisis Intervention
Confer with students and parents/guardians, when appropriate, where students show signs of stress/suicide.
5. Support Groups
Encourage the development of support groups for students who are identified as having problems with stress/suicide management, and for students who are involved with aftercare following treatment.
6. Postvention/Aftercare
Provide survivors (staff, peers, siblings, parents/guardians and friends) support in understanding, talking about, acknowledging emotional reactions, mourning, letting go, and then moving on.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Education directs the administration to develop procedures and guidelines to carry out this policy.

Legal References: None

Cross References: None