

# HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: SUICIDE AWARENESS,  
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

ADOPTED: June 23, 2004

REVISED: September 14, 2015

	<p>819. SUICIDE AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE</p>
1. Purpose	<p>The Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure and protect the health and welfare of all students, including those in crisis situations. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt; and to promote access to suicide awareness and prevention resources, enabling district personnel to provide assistance and support to students who may be at risk regarding suicide.</p>
2. Authority	<p>In compliance with state law and regulations, and in support of the district’s suicide prevention measures, information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student’s parents/guardians, the building principal or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or any other person is deemed to be at risk.</p>
3. Delegation of Responsibility	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy.</p>
4. Guidelines	<p>The district shall utilize a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention which integrates school and community-based supports.</p>
SC 1526	<p>The district shall notify district employees, students and parents/guardians of this policy and shall post the policy on the district’s website.</p>
SC 1526	<p><b>SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION</b></p> <p><u>Protocols for Administration of Student Education</u></p> <p>Students shall receive age-appropriate education on the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs, as well as help-seeking strategies for self or others including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.</p> <p><u>Protocols for Administration of Employee Education</u></p> <p>All district employees, including but not limited to secretaries, coaches, bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers, shall receive information regarding risk factors, warning signs, response procedures, referrals, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention.</p>
SC 1526 Pol. 333	<p>As part of the district’s professional development plan, professional educators in school buildings serving students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) shall participate in four (4)</p>

hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training every five (5) years.

Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention shall be provided to guidance counselors, district mental health professionals and school nurses.

Resources for Parents/Guardians

The district may provide parents/guardians with resources including, but not limited to, health promotion and suicide risk, including characteristics and warning signs; and information about local behavioral/mental health resources.

SC 1526

**METHODS OF PREVENTION**

The methods of prevention utilized by the district include, but are not limited to, early identification and support for students at risk; education for students, staff and parents/guardians; and delegation of responsibility for planning and coordination of suicide prevention efforts.

Suicide Prevention Coordinators

*District-Wide –*

A district-wide suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the Superintendent. This may be an existing district employee. The district suicide prevention coordinator shall be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy.

*Building Level –*

Each building principal shall designate a school suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in each school for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation. This may be an existing district employee.

Early Identification Procedures

Early identification of individuals with one (1) or more suicidal risk factors or of individuals exhibiting warning signs, is crucial to the district's suicide prevention efforts. To promote awareness, district employees, students and parents/guardians should be educated about suicidal risk factors and warning signs.

**METHODS OF INTERVENTION**

The methods of intervention utilized by the district include, but are not limited to, responding to suicide threats, suicide attempts in school, suicide attempts outside of school, and completed suicide. Suicide intervention procedures shall address the development of an emotional or mental health safety plan for students identified as being at increased risk of suicide.