

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP

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Student Suicide Prevention

### 5350 STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among students. Students under severe stress cannot benefit fully from the educational program and may pose a threat to themselves or others.

The Board directs all school district staff members to be alert to a student who exhibits warning signs or risk factors of self-destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such warning signs and/or risk factors, or the report of such warning signs and/or risk factors from another student or staff member shall be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the Principal or designee by any school district staff member, volunteer, or intern.

The Principal or designee shall immediately refer the student to the Crisis Response Team to assess the level of risk, if any. There shall be at least two Crisis Response Team Members completing the assessment to determine the level of risk. Immediately following the completion of the assessment, the Principal or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of the outcome. Based on the level of risk determined by the Crisis Response Team members, the parent/guardian may be required to obtain a medical and/or psychiatric evaluation for the student from a district approved facility. In the event the parent objects to the recommendation and indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interest of the student, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency and/or the police will be contacted.

In the event the student is required to obtain a medical and/ or psychiatric evaluation, the parent/guardian will be required to submit to the Principal or designee written clearance from a licensed mental health professional indicating the student has received the required evaluation, does not present a risk to



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themselves or others, and is cleared to return to school. Upon return, the student shall participate in a re-entry meeting with a member of the Crisis Response Team, parent/guardian, and any other individual(s) that the Crisis Response Team member deems appropriate.

Any school district staff member, volunteer, or intern with reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, shall immediately report the information to the Principal. The Principal or designee shall promptly report it online at the New Jersey Department of Children and Families website in accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24i, any person who reports an attempted or completed suicide shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability on account of the report, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

In the event that a district staff member, volunteer, or intern becomes aware of a possible risk of a student on a school sponsored field trip/event, 911 shall immediately be notified as well as the parent/guardian, Superintendent, and Principal.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 and 18A:6-112, as part of the required professional development for teachers as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq., every teaching staff member must complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional with training and experience in mental health issues, in each professional development period. The instruction in suicide prevention shall include information on the relationship between the risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students who are members of communities identified as having members at high risk of suicide.



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The Superintendent or designee shall prepare and disseminate guidelines to assist school district staff members in recognizing the warning signs and risk factors of a student who may be contemplating suicide, to respond to a threat or attempted suicide, and to prevent contagion when a student commits suicide.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112  
N.J.S.A. 30:9A-23; 30:9A-24  
N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq.

Adopted: 29 June 1998

Revised: 14 August 2006  
30 August 2010  
8 November 2010  
22 August 2016  
16 July 2018  
11 March 2019

