

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP

PUPILS

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Self-Injurious Behavior Without Suicidal Intent

### SELF-INJURIOUS BEHAVIOR WITHOUT SUICIDAL INTENT

There are some students who engage in self-injurious behavior without intending to express a suicidal gesture or to commit suicide. This behavior may include self-cutting (intentional breaking of the skin with an instrument) scratching, burning, head banging, and interference with wound healing. Other forms of self-injurious behavior may include hair pulling and breaking of bones. Piercings (earrings, nose rings, etc) tattoos and brandings (for initiations into clubs, fraternities, etc) should not be considered as self-injurious behavior unless they appear to pose a health problem, (infection, open sore, etc.) Self-injurious behavior is often associated with serious emotional and psychological problems. Most importantly, it can be dangerous and sometimes result in accidental death. Self-injurious behavior can be upsetting to friends and classmates and be disruptive to the school environment. Without intervention, self-injurious behavior is likely to continue and may escalate in frequency, duration or intensity. In order to address this important area of concern school district staff should adhere to the following:

1. Any staff member who encounters a student, or becomes aware of a student who has engaged in self-injurious behavior, shall immediately report the matter to the principal or designee.
2. The principal, or designee, arranges for screening by the CMT to assess for overall level of risk.
3. The student will be escorted to the school nurse by the CMT member.
4. The parents shall be contacted (or may be asked to come to the school for a conference), advised of the concerns and given referral information for qualified mental health providers.



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5. The School may require that the parents have the student evaluated by a mental health professional or sent for an immediate psychiatric evaluation.
6. In addition, the CMT shall determine (whether or not) a referral to DYFS is indicated. In accordance to district policy, a referral to DYFS also requires the school district to notify the local police.
7. If evaluated, the student must submit documentation indicating eligibility to return to school.
8. Prior to readmission to school, the student, parents, principal or designee along with CST (if the student is classified) guidance counselor, teacher, SAC, (if indicated) or school nurse, shall have a re-entry meeting to coordinate the In-School Support Resource Plan and any additional outside resources.

Adopted: 26 January 2009



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