

**Policy**

---

**PUPIL SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Haworth Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A pupil under severe stress cannot benefit fully from the educational program and may pose a threat to him/herself or others.

The Board directs all school personnel to be alert to the pupil who exhibits signs of potential self destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the building principal or Assistant Principal, who shall notify the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and other professional staff members in accordance with administrative regulations.

A potentially suicidal pupil shall be referred to appropriate available school personnel including guidance and/or Child Study Team personnel for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services. In the event that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) objects to the recommended evaluation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the pupil, the other staff members may contact the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services to request that agency's intervention on the pupil's behalf.

The Superintendent shall prepare and disseminate regulations for the guidance of staff members in recognizing the pupil who contemplates suicide, in responding to threatened or attempted suicide, and in preventing contagion when a pupil commits suicide.

Adopted: January 29, 2002