

The Board of Education recognizes that teen suicide has become a major mental health and social problem in contemporary America and has become particularly acute for our youth. The board further accepts the principle that educating the public is a critical element in that prevention effort.

The Board of Education recognizes teen suicide intervention and prevention as a community issue that necessitates coordination with public and private services available to the School District of Neillsville. The board further recognizes the need to support school-based programs to prevent suicide among minors which include a suicide intervention plan, training plan, and a suicide prevention curriculum, as well as a program for family and students when a suicide has occurred.

The Board of Education believes that an effective two-way communication network is essential to the planning, implementing and evaluation of a teen suicide intervention, prevention and post-treatment plan. The board encourages and welcomes individuals and agencies to participate in an advisory capacity to the School District of Neillsville.

STUDENT SUICIDE INTERVENTION PROCEDURE

The School District of Neillsville has developed the following procedures for dealing with a suicide crisis in the school setting. All district personnel are responsible for the welfare of young people in the school system, and should be sensitive to suspected problems in this area. A school counselor and/or administrative staff should be notified immediately of any suspicious behavior that reflects suicidal tendencies. Staff members who are directly involved with students are in a strategic position to identify and get help for the potential suicidal student.

STAFF PROCEDURE

There may be a situation in which you as a staff member suspect that a student may be suicidal.

1. Get professional help. Contact school counselors or a member of the administrative staff which includes the following: school psychologist, high school counselor, elementary/middle school counselor, high school principal, or elementary/middle school principal. If no school counselor or member of the administrative staff is available, use the Clark County Suicide Prevention Hotline (743-3400).
2. Do not leave the student alone if you believe the risk of suicide is immediate. Call the city police at 743-3122.

Initial Adoption: 2/8/10

Final Adoption: 3/8/10

COUNSELOR OR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

1. Interview:
Assess the danger of the threat and/or attempt by interviewing the student.
2. If after the interview the threat is assessed as immediate, call the Clark County Suicide Prevention Hotline at 743-3400 and ask for immediate detention. Do not leave the person alone!!
3. Transportation:
Call the city police at 743-3122 to provide transportation when asking for detention. However, if there is a problem, call the county police at 743-3157 and request transportation to Community Services or to other services that they deem appropriate.
4. Informing Parents/Guardians:
Discuss parental contact with Community Services or with the police. If it is obvious that the parent(s)/guardian(s) are a source of the student's problem, Community Services and the school will mutually agree, when possible, who will inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as they deem appropriate. If the problem is not assessed as a parent-initiated problem, call the parent(s)/guardian(s) before your referral and transportation have been arranged. Also inform Community Services that you have informed the parent(s)/guardian(s), if not already done so with the initial contact.
5. If the threat is not immediate, make a referral to parent(s)/guardian(s) that this student is in need of treatment. If part of the problem is a parent/guardian or if a parent/guardian is unavailable, refer to Community Services. Community Services and the school will mutually agree, when possible, who will inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the problem. Request that the Community Services information release slip be signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) so that follow-up information may be freely exchanged between the school and Community Services. Recommend to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) that they make an appointment with Community Services and document that you made that recommendation.
6. If the counselor receives a phone call from a student who is threatening suicide, ascertain the location and phone number of the student. Call city police at 743-3122 if the student is within the city limits, or call county police at 743-3157 if the student is calling from outside the city limits.

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