

SUBJECT: SUICIDE

According to national statistics, suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people. It is the policy of the Board to enact clear guidelines for prevention, intervention and post-intervention of suicide, reflecting the District's concern for this serious mental health issue.

The Board recognizes the need for suicide prevention and will instruct the District Superintendent to establish a crisis intervention team whose responsibility will be to develop a suicide response plan. This plan will be integrated into the existing school safety plan. The plan will include education and awareness of risk factors for youth suicide, procedures for intervening if a student exhibits risk factors, including referral services, and a post intervention plan to help the BOCES and community cope with the aftermath of such a tragic event should it occur.

Suicide prevention instruction will be provided to educate students, though it will be outside the formal curriculum. This will be done in a manner so as not to sensationalize the matter, but to provide students with information and resources on this important mental health issue. The District will also foster interagency cooperation that will enable staff to identify and access appropriate community resources to aid students in times of crisis.

The administration is responsible for informing staff of regulations and procedures of suicide prevention, intervention and post-intervention that have been developed by the BOCES or host school districts. The BOCES will actively respond to any situation where a student verbally or behaviorally indicates intent to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself. Staff training and professional development on suicide and crisis intervention will be made available.

NOTE: Refer also to Policies: [#2420 -- Anti-Harassment in the BOCES](#)
[#4542 -- School Safety Plans](#)
[#6490 -- Bullying: Peer Abuse in the BOCES \(Students\)](#)
[#6495 -- Hazing of Students](#)

Adopted: 5/12/11