

CRISIS INTERVENTION

The Old Tappan Board of Education believes the physical and mental well-being of all students must be maintained as a prerequisite to achievement through the formal education process. When a crisis occurs or is imminent, the Board directs the administration to activate a process that provides students with support and assistance in handling the physical, mental and emotional impact of that crisis.

The administrator(s) of a school(s) where a crisis or tragedy occurs shall, as soon as possible, contact the Department of Special Services and develop a plan of action in consultation with the school psychologist and/or social worker. The Board directs the Superintendent to identify a community health agency able to provide the necessary assistance and to establish a continuing cooperative relationship with them in this effort.

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative regulations and procedures for the implementation of the program and ensure their dissemination to staff, students and parents/guardians.

Suicide

The Board wishes to ensure appropriate suicide awareness and prevention programs are initiated and continued in the Old Tappan School District. The Board directs that the programs developed help the school staff, parents/guardians and students to:

- A. Understand the developmental stages of adolescence and the causes of teen suicide;
- B. Recognize the early warning signs of adolescent suicide;
- C. Learn how to help in a suicidal crisis;
- D. Identify community resources and procedures that can help a suicidal person.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
 N.J.S.A. 30:9A-12 Youth suicide prevention program

Cross References: *5020 Role of parents/guardians
 *5124 Reporting to parents/guardians
 *5141 Health
 5141.1 Accidents
 5141.2 Illnesses
 *5142 Student safety
 *6142.4 Physical education and health
 *6144 Controversial issues
 *6164.2 Guidance services
 *6164.4 Child study team

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Crisis Intervention, Crises, Suicide, Suicide Prevention

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