

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION
LINCOLN PARK

PUPILS
5350/Page 1 of 1
Pupil Suicide Prevention

5350 PUPIL SUICIDE PREVENTION

The 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 himself or 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 pupil or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the building principal, who shall notify the pupil's parent or legal guardian and other professional staff members in accordance with all administrative regulations.

A potentially suicidal pupil shall be referred immediately to the Child Study Team for appropriate evaluation and/or recommendation for independent medical or psychiatric services. In the event that the parent or legal guardian objects to the recommended evaluation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the pupil, the Child Study Team may contact the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services to request that agency's intervention on the pupil's behalf. The pupil may be readmitted to school after the parents/guardians have presented written documentation to the Director of Special Services that the child is not a threat to him/herself or to others.

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: 11 June 1996
Revised: 13 June 2000