

Students

Suicide Prevention and Intervention

The New Milford Board of Education recognizes that suicide is among the three leading causes of death among young people and, consequently, is a concern to this school system and the community it serves. It is the policy of the Board of Education to actively respond in any situation where a student communicates verbally or in writing or engages in behavior that makes clear an intent to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself.

The Board of Education recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish program(s) to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, referral services and training for teachers, other school professionals and students to provide assistance in these programs. It is also recognized by the Board that suicide is a complex issue, and that, while school staff members may recognize potentially suicidal youth, they cannot make clinical assessment of risk and provide in depth counseling, but must refer the youth to an appropriate agency for such assessment and counseling.

Therefore, any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat or intent will report this information to the school Principal or his/her designee, who will, in turn, mobilize the crisis intervention team as described in the district's Guide to Crisis Intervention Procedures. The student's family will be notified, and an appropriate referral will be made. At no time during this process is the student to be left alone.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut