

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board recognizes that self-destructive behavior and suicide occurs among children and adolescents in our country. Students identified as self-destructive are in need of appropriate help as quickly as possible. The primary efforts of school personnel working with a depressed or suicidal student are support, parental contact and referral. To that end, student confidentiality may be waived in life-threatening situations.

With the intent of contributing to the prevention of suicide among its pupils where possible, the Board directs an Adolescent Suicide Program to be initiated including:

- In-service education to increase the awareness of all building staff about the seriousness of the problem and possible suicide “warning signs”.
- Establishment of referral/response procedures in the school to facilitate assisting pupils identified as possibly suicidal.
- Infusion into curriculum (K-12) of appropriate information to help students deal appropriately with feelings, to recognize possible suicide “warning signs” in themselves and others, and to increase awareness of alternatives and resources available for assistance.
- Parent awareness to increase understanding of parents about the problem and the resources available.
- Procedures in the school for dealing appropriately with tragedies to ease the impact on pupils, staff, and community in the event of a student suicide.

School system personnel cannot be expected to treat the suicidal adolescent. Rather, they need to recognize that they are in a position to aid in the identification of those young people who may be suicide prone and to intervene in order to link these young people and their families to treatment programs in the community. In addition, school personnel need to be better prepared to sensitively relate to suicidal young people following a suicide attempt, and to deal with the intense emotions/reactions of the school community following an actual suicide.

SAU #7 Policy Committee: Recommended for Adoption – January 31, 2019

Colebrook School Board: Adopted – May 7, 2019

Pittsburg School Board: Adopted – May 13, 2019

Stewartstown School Board: Adopted – June 3, 2019