

administrative guidelines

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**STUDENTS
5350/page 1 of 2**

SUICIDE INTERVENTION

These procedures have been adopted by the Port Washington-Saukville School District Board of Education. Any questions to these procedures should be directed to the Director of Special Services.

Procedures to Follow

- A. Emergency Situation (Suicide has been attempted.)
 - 1. Obtain medical assistance. (Based on the immediate assessment of the crisis situation, call 911 for the local police and the school nurse.)
 - 2. Provide immediate first aid as needed and remain with the student until medical assistance is obtained.
 - 3. Call the building administrator or designee.
 - 4. The building administrator or designee calls the parent(s) and informs them of the situation.
 - 5. The building administrator or designee calls the Crisis Intervention Team.
- B. Crisis Situation (Threat of Suicide)
 - 1. Arrange to have the student remain with a responsible adult until the parent or other help arrives.
 - 2. Notify the building administrator or designee who in turn will contact parent(s) and:
 - a. Informs them of the situation.
 - b. Advises them to seek counseling.
- C. Non-Emergency Situation (Student has exhibited symptoms which may be interpreted as suicidal.)
 - 1. Consult with the building administrator or designee, school counselor, or other special services staff member to discuss concerns.
 - 2. As a result of the consultation, the Crisis Intervention Team may be asked to convene.
 - 3. The referring staff member will be informed of the results of the Crisis Intervention Team meeting.

administrative guidelines

BOARD OF EDUCATION
PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENTS
5350/page 2 of 2

D. What To Do

When you suspect that a student may be suicidal, you may become nervous and anxious. This is a normal feeling. It may help if you remember the following:

1. Believe or trust your suspicions that the student may be self-destructive.
2. Communicate your concern for the well-being of the student. Be an active listener and show your support.
3. Be direct. Talk openly and freely and ask direct questions about the student's intentions. Try to determine if the student has a plan for suicide (how, where, when).
4. Get professional help. Encourage the student to seek help from a school counselor, minister, or someone who can help solve the problems. If the student resists, you may have to get the necessary help for them.

E. What Not To Do

1. Do not allow yourself to be sworn to secrecy by the suicidal student. You may lose the confidence of the student but you may save a life.
2. Do not leave the student alone if you believe the risk for suicide is immediate.
3. Do not act shocked at what the student tells you.
4. Do not debate whether suicide is right or wrong. This may make the student feel more guilty.

**** NOTE:** If a building administrator is not available, the Director of Special Services should be contacted after the immediate threat of danger to the student has been eliminated. If the person responsible for notifying the parents desires consultation with a mental health professional prior to the parent contact call:

- Ozaukee County Counseling Center at 284-8130.
- If the Ozaukee County Counseling Center is closed, contact the police/sheriff to obtain the name and telephone number of the on-duty Counseling Center staff member.

The Wisconsin legislature has recognized the importance of attempting to prevent youth suicide and has created an immunity from civil liability for certain individuals who in good faith attempt to prevent suicide by a pupil. The statute provides:
118.292 Suicide Intervention: Civil Liability Exemption Any school board, private school, county handicapped children's education board, or cooperative educational service agency, and any office, employee or volunteer thereof, who in good faith attempts to prevent suicide by a pupil is immune from civil liability for his or her acts or omissions in respect to the suicide or attempted suicide. The civil liability immunity provided in this section is in addition to and not in lieu of that provided under s.895.48.

Approved: 8/18/04