

## **Students**

### **Suicide Prevention and Intervention**

Suicide is a complex issue, and, while the school may recognize potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling but must refer the youth to an appropriate place for such assessment and counseling.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat must report this information to the building principal or his/her designee. Immediately, this youth will be referred to a school psychologist for initial evaluation and counseling.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules

Policy adopted: August 17, 2010

PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Putnam, Connecticut

# **Students**

## **Suicide Prevention and Intervention**

### **Guidelines**

When a staff member in the public school system is confronted with a situation in which a student makes a statement of suicidal thinking, or it appears that an attempt at suicide is possible, the following actions will take place:

1. The staff member immediately will refer the student to the appropriate guidance counselor.
2. In the event the staff member perceives that a student has taken action which creates a medical emergency, the school nurse will be notified immediately and emergency medical procedures will be followed.
3. The counselor will notify the Principal and the school nurse and seek the intervention of the Department of Student Services worker — either the school psychologist or the school social worker.
4. The counselor and/or Department of Student Services worker will meet with the student immediately for the purpose of establishing sequential facts or events leading to the crisis. At no time during this process is the student to be left alone.
5. If the student is not found to be suicidal, the parents will be notified of the referral and of all conclusions reached.
6. If the student is found to be suicidal, immediate contact will be made with a parent or guardian and a conference will be held the same day.

During the conference, the parent or guardian will be advised that an immediate psychiatric evaluation is needed.

If reasonable attempts to reach the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult in whose custody the student may be released are not successful, the case will be treated as a medical emergency and arrangements will be made to transport the student to an area hospital emergency room or mental health facility.

If the student requires medical attention, he/she will be transported immediately to an area hospital. The school nurse will arrange to have the parents meet the student at the hospital.

## **Students**

### **Suicide Prevention and Intervention** (continued)

#### **Guidelines** (continued)

A detailed report will be written within twenty-four hours by the department worker who assumes responsibility for the case. The report shall include:

1. Name of the student.
2. Name of the staff member(s) involved.
3. Time and date of all conferences.
4. Summary of all conferences.
5. Recommendations made to parents, student, and building staff.

Follow-up contact will be in accordance with the recommendations. A report will be written indicating those activities performed to follow through and ensure the safety and well-being of the student.

A copy of all reports will be submitted to the parents, the Principal, and the Director of Student Services.

Failure on the part of the family to take seriously and provide for the safety of the student in the case of potential suicide will be considered emotional neglect and reported to the Department of Children and Families.

If, as a result of suicidal activity, a need exists for changes in the student's program, the school's planning and placement team will convene and consult with the student's mental health professional, the parent(s) or guardian, appropriate outside facility staff members and, if feasible, the student to plan the student's educational program.

The school social worker or Department of Student Services worker who assumes responsibility for the case will maintain contact with the student's mental health professionals to support programming needs and follow-up procedures.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules

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### **Crisis Prevention/Response**

The district recognizes that schools are subject to a number of potentially disruptive events. These events include major crises. No school is immune no matter the size or location. The challenge, however, is to protect students as much as possible in an increasingly violent world.

Being prepared for crises can enhance the district's effectiveness in responding to smaller incidents.

Although there is no guarantee that a district (school) will ever be completely safe from crime, the district will take the following security measures to lessen the chances of violence occurring on school grounds:

1. The district will coordinate a local school security committee (task force) comprised of school officials, law enforcement, other youth-service providers, parents and students. The committee will plan what safety measures are needed and how they can be implemented, as well as regularly review school safety and security measures;
2. School site administrators will acquire appropriate knowledge of crime-prevention measures and take greater responsibility in working with the Board and district to implement site security programs;
3. Schools will develop a comprehensive crisis management plan that incorporates resources available through other community agencies;
4. A school communications network will be established that links classrooms and playground supervisors with the front office or security staff as well as with local law enforcement and fire departments;
5. School staff will be informed and regularly updated on safety plans through in-service training. The training will include certified staff, classified staff, part-time employees and substitute teachers, and may include parents and community volunteers;
6. Access points to school grounds will be limited and monitored during the school day. A single visitor entrance should be supervised. Visitors shall sign in at the office and wear an identification pass. Delivery entrances used by vendors will be checked regularly;
7. Students will be taught to take responsibility for their own safety by reporting suspicious individuals or unusual activity on school grounds and by learning personal safety and conflict-resolution techniques;

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### **Crisis Prevention/Response** (continued)

To protect against intrusion, the district will not only analyze the facilities to make illegal entry as difficult as possible, but will develop a crisis plan so that each staff member and student knows what to do in an emergency.

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

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