

Policy

STUDENT(S) HARMFUL TO SELF OR OTHERS AND/OR CAUSING AN EDUCATION DISRUPTION

The Oradell Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to be prepared to confront circumstances in which the physical and/or mental well-being of pupils, staff and other individuals on school grounds is threatened or overtly impacted upon by an individual or group of individuals in which student(s) demonstrate symptoms that are psychiatric in nature, which include making verbalizations, paranoid statements, threats of violence to self or others, extreme anger or rage, physical intimidation and/or contact with students or staff and excessive insubordination and defiance.

Situations include but are not limited to student(s) being unavailable to learn based on their mental health status over a period of time, student(s) showing a disregard for school and class rules and procedures and age appropriate and acceptable rules and norms, the disruption of student and classroom learning for self and others due to emotional and/or behavior outburst and threats or acts of a violent nature to self or others.

Procedures

The chief school administrator shall oversee the development of regulations and procedures for the implementation of a suicide awareness and prevention program and will ensure their dissemination to staff, students, and parents/guardians. The following actions will be taken if a student reports suicidal ideation or is suspected of potentially harming himself/herself:

- A. Staff will maintain direct supervision of the student in order to ensure his/her safety. The student shall not be left alone (the staff member will escort the student to the main office. If the student will not comply, the staff member will remain with the student and have another staff member inform the principal or assistant principal);
- B. The principal or assistant principal shall be notified directly, not through email or written correspondence;
- C. The director/supervisor of student personnel and special services shall be notified (if the director/supervisor is not available, the school psychologist shall be notified);
- D. The chief school administrator shall be notified the same day (if the chief school administrator is not available, the administrator-in-charge shall be notified);
- E. The parents/guardians of the child shall be contacted for an immediate conference;
- F. The director/supervisor of student personnel and special services, the school psychologist, or a school counselor, shall interview the child;
- G. A conference shall be conducted as soon as possible between the parents/guardians, the administrator, the school counselor, and the child;
- H. The parents/guardians shall be informed that a psychiatric examination is required, if deemed necessary by the principal or assistant principal in consultation with the school psychologist and the director/supervisor; and
- I. When the child is required to be evaluated, reentry to the school shall require a statement from a psychiatrist, or other identified mental health professional that states that the child is not a danger to herself/himself or others. The report shall include recommendations if any, of accommodations that the school can provide to protect the mental and physical well-being of the child in the educational setting. If a psychiatric evaluation is required, that report must be provided to the district.

Suicide Awareness

Students at all grade levels shall receive instruction in suicide prevention as part of the district health and physical education curriculum and consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

Every teaching staff member shall complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention as part of the required professional development. The instruction shall be provided by a licensed healthcare professional with experience in mental health issues, in each professional development period. The instruction in suicide prevention shall include information on the relationship between the risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students who are members of communities identified as having members at high risk of suicide.

Suicide Reporting

In compliance with law (N.J.S.A. 30-9A-24 and N.J.A.C. 6A:11-1) school district employees, volunteers, or interns with reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, shall report the information to the Department Children and Families. The information shall be reported in the form and manner prescribed by the Department Children and Families.

The information contained in the report to the Department Children and Families shall not be considered a public record, but the division may aggregate the data for the purpose of preparing an annual report. The reporter shall not be required to identify the student or youth by name or other unique identifier, but may be required to supply non-identifying demographic information about the student or youth, other attempts made by the student or youth and the response or referral made to deal with the incident.

Any person who reports an attempted or completed suicide shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability on account of that report, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

Adopted: **April 26, 2023**

Key Words

Crisis, Self-Mutilation, Self Destructive, Suicide, Depression, Cutting

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-23 to 26 AED emergency medical services, 1999 statute
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 et seq. Instruction in Suicide Prevention

See particularly:

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-113 Instruction in suicide prevention in public school curriculum

N.J.S.A. 18A:166, 6.1 Indemnity of officers and employees against civil actions

N.J.S.A. 18A:354.6 et seq. Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979

N.J.S.A. 18A:401 Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules

N.J.S.A. 18A:403 Lectures to teachers

N.J.S.A. 18A:405 Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian

N.J.S.A. 18A:406 In general

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq. Substance Abuse

N.J.S.A. 44:62 Maintenance by boards of education of clinics for indigent children

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1 et seq. Programs to Support Student Development

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1, -1.3, -1.4, -2.1, -2.3, -2.4

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.1 et seq. Operation and Maintenance of School

See particularly: Facilities

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.3

Possible Cross References:

*1410	Local units
*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
*3516	Safety
*4112.4/4212.4	Employee health
*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
*5125	Student records
*5131	Conduct/discipline
*5131.1	Harassment, intimidation and bullying
*5131.6	Substance abuse
*5131.7	Weapons and dangerous instruments
*5141.1	Accidents
*5141.2	Illness
*5141.21	Administering medication
*5142	Student safety
*5145.11	Questioning and apprehension
*5145.12	Search and seizure
*6142.4	Physical education and health

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.