

**CRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

POLICY: CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

The Cranford Board of Education believes the physical and mental well-being of all pupils should be maintained as a prerequisite to achievement through the formal education process. Recognizing that the incidence of childhood and adolescent suicide is a serious issue the Board wishes to ensure that appropriate awareness and prevention programs are initiated and continued in the school district.

The Board believes that the entire staff of the district, as well as the pupils, can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of childhood and adolescent suicide, and that the success of such an effort depends to a large extent upon the understanding and support of the total community. The Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools or designee to establish consulting and referral relationships between the Cranford Public Schools and various agencies specializing in suicide awareness and prevention programs.

Since the necessary professional expertise to carry out such a program may not be adequately available within the school system, it also directs the Superintendent of Schools or designee to identify all community agencies able to provide the necessary assistance and to establish a continuing cooperative relationship with them in this effort.

The Board of Education encourages the direction of persons and programs which the school system believes may help the school staff, parents/guardians and pupils to:

1. Understand the developmental stages of childhood and adolescence and the causes of suicide;
2. Recognize the early warning signs of childhood and adolescent suicide;
3. Learn how to help in a suicidal crisis;
4. Identify community resources and procedures that can help a suicidal person.

An educational agency or institution may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. If the educational agency or institution determines that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, it may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. If, based on the information available at the time of the determination, there is a rational basis for the determination, the Department will not substitute its judgment for that of the educational agency or institution in evaluating the circumstances and making its determination.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall also develop appropriate administrative regulations and procedures for referral to these programs and ensure the dissemination of information about them to the staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 2a:62a-16	Duty to Warn and Protect
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1	General Mandatory Powers and Duties
TITLE 30: 9A 12	Findings, Declarations
TITLE 30: 9A 13	Youth Suicide Prevention Program
TITLE 30: 9A 14	Guidelines
TITLE 30: 9A 15	Proposals
TITLE 30: 9A 16	Cooperation with School Boards
TITLE 30: 9A 22	Findings, Declarations
TITLE 30: 9A 23	Definitions Relative to Youth Suicide

TITLE 30: 9A 24
TITLE 30: 9A 25
TITLE 30: 9A 26
TITLE 30: 9A 27

Report by Teacher
NJ Youth Suicide Advisory Board
Public Awareness
Compilation of Data

Adopted: November 17, 1986
Revised: August 31, 1998
Revised: February 10, 2009
Revised: December 14, 2009