

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

POLICY: ADOLESCENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The Springfield Board of Education believes the physical and mental well being of all pupils must be maintained as a prerequisite to achievement through the formal educational process. Recognizing that the incidence of adolescent suicide is on the rise and that suicide is the number two killer of young people between the ages of 15 and 24, the Board wishes to insure that appropriate awareness and prevention programs are initiated and continued in the Springfield School District.

Because it believes that the entire staff of the Springfield School District, as well as the pupils, can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of 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 Springfield Board of Education directs the Chief School Administrator to develop and implement a comprehensive and continuing adolescent suicide awareness and prevention program for the entire school community. Since the necessary professional expertise to carry out such a program may not be adequately available within the school system, it also directs the Chief School Administrator to identify a community mental health agency able to provide the necessary assistance and to establish a continuing cooperative relationship with them in this effort. *Certificated staff must receive two hours of training every five years in compliance with New Jersey statute.*

The Springfield Board of Education directs that the program developed help the school staff, parents/guardians and pupils to:

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

The Chief School Administrator shall also develop appropriate administrative regulations and procedures for the implementation of the program and insure their dissemination to staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1
N.J.S.A. 30:9A-12
N.J.A.C. 6:804.4

Cross References:

3516 Safety
4131/4231 Staff development
5020 Individual needs assessment
5113 Absences and Excuses
5141.2 Illness
5141.21 Administration of medication
5145.12 Search and seizure
6114 Emergencies
6164.2 Guidance services

Approved: March 4, 1992
Revised: June 30, 1997
Revised: December 22, 2008