

STUDENTS

Suicide Awareness and Prevention

The Board recognizes that both self-destructive behavior and physical and mental well-being relate to academic achievement. A student who experiences depression does not benefit fully from the educational program of the school. Moreover, a student who threatens or attempts suicide poses a danger both to self and possibly to others.

Because the entire staff, as well as the students, can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of adolescent suicide, the Board directs the superintendent to develop and implement a comprehensive suicide awareness and prevention program. The program that is developed should help the school staff, parents and students to:

- A. understand the developmental stages of adolescence and the causes of suicide;
- B. recognize the early warning sign of suicide;
- C. learn how to help in a suicidal crisis;
- D. identify community resources and procedures that can help a suicidal person;
- E. address the repercussions of such a tragedy.

In incidents of potential self-destructive behavior the student's parent(s) or guardian shall be notified immediately and their cooperation shall be sought for immediate intervention. If the parent or guardian is unwilling to cooperate, the school administration shall contact appropriate agencies to request intervention on the student's behalf. In cases of child abuse or neglect, school staff are required to contact child protective services.

The Board directs the superintendent to develop procedures to implement this policy and insure their dissemination to staff, students and parents.

(See Policy No. 3418 - Drug and Alcohol Use/Abuse and Policy No. 3421 - Child Abuse and Neglect.)

Legal Reference: [RCW 9A.36.060](#) Promoting a Suicide Attempt...Class C
Felony

Adopted: September 8, 1993