



SECTION: 527

TITLE: Suicidal Awareness and Prevention

NESHAMINY SCHOOL

DISTRICT

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|----|
| 1 | I. PURPOSE | The Neshaminy School Board recognizes the need for and is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for students. It is the school district's belief that students should receive the appropriate prevention education, early identification and intervention. In addition, students shall have access to all local resources to promote health and prevent personal harm or injury. Therefore, in order to ensure the safety and welfare of students, the school board adopts this policy and will work to educate school personnel and students on the actions and resources necessary to safeguard against the threat or attempt of suicide and to promote mental well-being. | 1 |
| 2 | | | 2 |
| 3 | | | 3 |
| 4 | | | 4 |
| 5 | | | 5 |
| 6 | | | 6 |
| 7 | | | 7 |
| 8 | | | 8 |
| 9 | | | 9 |
| 10 | II. AUTHORITY | This policy shall apply in any situation where a student is expressing suicidal thoughts or intentions of self-harm on school property, at any school sponsored activity, or on any public vehicle providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity. This policy shall also apply following a student's suicide threat or attempt that does not occur on school grounds or during a school-sponsored activity, but that is reported to any school personnel. | 10 |
| 11 | | | 11 |
| 12 | | | 12 |
| 13 | | | 13 |
| 14 | | | 14 |
| 15 | | | 15 |
| 16 | | | 16 |
| 17 | | | 17 |
| 18 | III. DEFINITIONS | <i>At-Risk for Suicide</i> shall mean any youth with risk factors or warning signs that increase the likelihood of suicidal behavior. | 18 |
| 19 | | | 19 |
| 20 | | <i>Crisis Response Team</i> shall include, but may not be limited to, the administrators, guidance counselors, the school nurse, social worker, and school resource officers, and/or other members of the Student Assistance Program (SAP), as designated, and may include other members as deemed appropriate by the chief school administrator/school entity. Community mental agency resources may be called for assistance to be a part of the team. | 20 |
| 21 | | | 21 |
| 22 | | | 22 |
| 23 | | | 23 |
| 24 | | | 24 |
| 25 | | | 25 |
| 26 | | | 26 |
| 27 | | <i>Expressed Suicidal Thoughts or Intentions</i> shall mean a verbal or nonverbal communication that an individual intends to harm him/herself with the intention to die, but has not acted on the behavior. Prevention refers to efforts that seek to reduce the factors that increase the risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors and increase the factors that help strengthen, support, and protect individuals from suicide. | 27 |
| 28 | | | 28 |
| 29 | | | 29 |
| 30 | | | 30 |
| 31 | | | 31 |
| 32 | | | 32 |
| 33 | | <i>Protective Factors</i> shall refer to characteristics (biological, psychological, and social) that reduce risk and the likelihood of the individual developing a mental illness. | 33 |
| 34 | | | 34 |
| 35 | | | 35 |

| | | | |
|----|------------------|---|----|
| 1 | | POLICY 527 (continued) | 1 |
| 2 | | <i>Resilience</i> shall refer to an individual’s innate ability to persevere in the face of | 2 |
| 3 | | adversity and reduce the risk of unhealthy outcomes. | 3 |
| 4 | | | 4 |
| 5 | | <i>Risk Factors</i> shall mean the personal or environmental characteristics | 5 |
| 6 | | associated with suicide. People affected by one or more of these risk factors | 6 |
| 7 | | have a greater probability of suicidal behavior. | 7 |
| 8 | | | 8 |
| 9 | | <i>School Personnel</i> include, but may not be limited to, administrators, teachers, | 9 |
| 10 | | paraprofessionals, support staff, coaches, bus drivers, custodians, and | 10 |
| 11 | | cafeteria workers. | 11 |
| 12 | | | 12 |
| 13 | | <i>Suicide</i> shall refer to death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any | 13 |
| 14 | | intent to die as a result of the behavior. | 14 |
| 15 | | | 15 |
| 16 | | <i>Suicidal Act or Suicide Attempt</i> shall mean a potentially self-injurious | 16 |
| 17 | | behavior for which there is evidence that the person probably intended to kill | 17 |
| 18 | | him/herself; a suicidal act may result in death, injuries, or no injuries. | 18 |
| 19 | | | 19 |
| 20 | | <i>Warning Signs</i> are evidenced-based indicators that someone may be in danger | 20 |
| 21 | | of suicide, either immediately or in the very near future. | 21 |
| 22 | | | 22 |
| 23 | IV. STAFF | All school personnel, including, but not limited to, administrators, teachers, | 23 |
| 24 | DEVELOPMENT | paraprofessionals, support staff, coaches, bus drivers, custodians, and | 24 |
| 25 | | cafeteria workers, shall receive information regarding the school’s protocols | 25 |
| 26 | | for suicide awareness and prevention. Education will be provided for all | 26 |
| 27 | | school personnel about the importance of suicide prevention and recognition | 27 |
| 28 | | of suicide risk factors, as well as strategies to enhance protective factors, | 28 |
| 29 | | resilience, and school connectedness. Additionally, all school personnel will | 29 |
| 30 | | be educated about the warning signs and risk factors for youth depression and | 30 |
| 31 | | suicide. | 31 |
| 32 | | | 32 |
| 33 | | As part of the school entity’s Professional Development Plan, professional | 33 |
| 34 | | staff in all school buildings serving students in grades six (6) through twelve | 34 |
| 35 | | (12) shall participate in four (4) hours of youth suicide awareness and | 35 |
| 36 | | prevention training every five (5) years. | 36 |
| 37 | | | 37 |
| 38 | V. | In compliance with state regulations and in support of the school’s suicide | 38 |
| 39 | INTERVENTION/ | prevention methods, information received in confidence from a student may | 39 |
| 40 | PREVENTION | be revealed to the student’s parents or guardians, the building principal or | 40 |
| 41 | | other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student | 41 |
| 42 | 22 Pa Code.12.12 | or other persons is at risk. | 42 |
| 43 | | | 43 |
| 44 | | | 44 |
| 45 | | | 45 |

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

POLICY 527 (continued)

Any school personnel who are made aware of any threat or witnesses any attempt towards self-harm that is written, drawn, spoken, or threatened shall immediately notify the principal or designee. Any threat in any form shall be treated as real and dealt with immediately. No student should be left alone, nor confidences promised. In cases of life-threatening situations, a student's confidentiality will be waived. The school entity's crisis response procedures shall be implemented.

If a student is identified as being at-risk for suicide or attempts suicide and requires special education services or accommodations, the Director of Special Education shall be notified and shall take action to address the student's needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.

If an expressed suicide thought or intention is made know to any school personnel during an afterschool program and the principal or designee are not available, school personnel should immediately call:

- Bucks County Mobile Crisis Intervention Services at 1-877-435-7709 or
- Lenape Crisis at Lower Bucks Hospital at 215-785-9765

Thereafter, the staff member should immediately inform the principal of the incident and actions taken.

**VI. GUIDELINES/
POSTVENTION**

Memorials - there shall be no visible memorials to recognize a suicide (i.e., planting trees, erecting monuments, hanging of plaques, etc.). Yearbook will not be dedicated to victims of suicide. There shall be no school-sponsored memorial service or assembly for the victim of a suicide.

Approved: 11/17/2015

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45