

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION/CRISIS RESPONSE POLICY**

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A student who suffers the psychological disability of depression cannot benefit fully from the educational program of the schools, and a student who has attempted suicide poses a danger both to himself/herself and to other students.

All school personnel should be alert to the student who exhibits signs of unusual depression or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness.

The attempt or completion of a suicide act by a student during or after school hours impacts not only on the school, its employees, and its students but also on the community. The role of the school is to respond promptly to the act and minimize any negative effect such an act might have upon its students and staff.

The policy of the Board shall be to follow this procedure carefully whenever:

1. Any suspicion or concrete evidence reveals that a student is contemplating Suicide.
2. Any student has completed the act of suicide.
3. Either of the aforementioned acts has occurred and interventions to calm the school or community have been initiated.