

MANHEIM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: RESPONDING TO DEPRESSED
AND SUICIDAL STUDENTS

ADOPTED March 19, 1996

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Responsibility</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">819.1. RESPONDING TO DEPRESSED AND SUICIDAL STUDENTS</p> <p>The Board recognizes the need to establish a policy to assist all school personnel in preventing suicide attempts and in responding to a suicide threat.</p> <p>If an employee of the district believes that a student is potentially suicidal, the employee shall report that belief to the principal or appointed designee who will immediately share the information with the assigned counselor.</p> <p>The notification to the counselor by the principal will prompt an initial assessment and determine the degree of involvement of the Student Assistance Team. The Student Assistance Team representatives will consist of the counselor, building administrator, building nurse, and others deemed necessary by the counselor.</p> <p>The Student Assistance Team will serve as the coordinating body in the response to a suicide threat or suicide attempt.</p> <p>The primary responsibility of the Student Assistance Team working with seriously depressed or suicidal students is <u>support, parental contact and referral</u>.</p> <p><u>Managing An Immediate Crisis</u></p> <p>Responding to immediate and obvious threat of suicide.</p> <p>If an employee becomes aware of a student who is demonstrating an immediate and obvious threat of suicide, and who is in clear and present danger, the following procedures to protect the student would apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain with the student. 2. Talk to the student. 3. Send for help.
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4. Remove others - isolate student.
5. Notify counselor/Student Assistance Team member who will in turn notify the team.

Assessing Level Of Risk

The level of student risk will be assessed by one or more of the following means:

1. Information from the referring employee.
2. Student self report data (via structured interview and/or structured inventories).
3. Consultation with other team members.

The school counselor (or someone from the Student Assistance Team acting in the counselor's stead) shall be responsible for administering assessment materials and gathering information to be used by the counselor/Student Assistance Team for determining the level of suicide risk (HIGH or LOW).

Each counselor has a portfolio of interview questions and assessment materials.

Responding To Level Of Risk

Under a condition of HIGH RISK:

1. A responsible adult shall remain with the student, and the student shall only be released to a parent, close relative, or qualified professional, (e.g., psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, etc.) who can provide direct help.
2. Notify the building principal or the appointed designee.
3. The counselor will consult with another member of their department. The referring staff member shall be a primary resource person for the counselor.
4. The parent or the legal guardian with whom the child resides must be notified immediately. Confidentiality will no longer apply.
5. If restraint is required, or a clear danger to other students is foreseen, the administrator will call the police.

6. If there is a serious injury (in the judgment of the nurse), arrangements will be made for the student to be transported to the nearest medical facility.
7. Assist the parent/guardian by providing information regarding available community services, and if necessary, in contacting the Crisis Intervention Center (394-2631).
8. A follow-up shall be made by the counselor during the following school day to determine what supportive services are being provided. In-school follow-up procedures shall be developed by the counselor in cooperation with the parent. The counselor will formally refer the student to the Student Assistance Team.
9. School staff members who are involved with the student, shall be notified in order to monitor the student's adjustment.

Under a condition of LOW RISK:

1. The counselor and other members of the Student Assistance Team, as needed, will meet to review the situation and develop an action plan to provide supportive assistance to the student.
2. The parents/guardian will be notified by the counselor. Confidentiality no longer applies.
3. The student and/or parent will be provided information regarding available community services, as well as the number of the Crisis Intervention Center. The student will be formally referred to the Student Assistance Team.
4. A follow-up by the counselor will be made within one week after the incident to determine what supportive services are being provided.
5. The counselor will provide support and will notify school staff members who are involved with the student to assist in monitoring the student's adjustment.

School employees are reminded that the main functions of involvement with a depressed or suicidal student are support, parental contact and referral.

Documentation

The guidance counselor is responsible for completing the Student Assistance Team Activity Report. This document will be completed in situations of both HIGH and LOW RISK.

The Student Assistance Team Activity Report will be completed within one week of the incident. Copies will be forwarded to the principal and Director of Pupil Services.

At the elementary level, the Student Assistance Team shall consist of the counselor, principal, nurse, social worker and school psychologist as deemed necessary.