

Suicide Prevention and Intervention**5141.5**

The North Canaan Board of Education recognizes the need for a comprehensive suicide prevention and intervention policy, because suicide is among the three leading causes of death among young people. It is the policy of the Board that school staff will actively respond to any situation where a student verbally or through behavior indicates an intention to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself.

The Board recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish such procedures and educational programs to identify risk factors for youth suicide, to intervene with such youth, to guide staff in making appropriate referrals to outside agencies, and to insure proper training for teachers, other school professionals and students in the recognition and management of youth at risk for suicide.

School staff members collect information to determine the seriousness of the threat, they can make an assessment of risk and refer to the appropriate level of care. Staff is required, therefore, to refer at risk youths to an appropriate agency for such assessment and counseling.

Therefore, any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat or intention will report this information to the school counseling or nursing staff, who will in turn mobilize the appropriate support staff.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 (e) Boards of Education to prescribe rules.

NORTH CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adopted:

(e) Not later than July 1, 1990, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. Each such board of education may establish a student assistance program to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youths, referral services and training for teachers and other school professionals and students who aid in the program.