

**Suicide Prevention and Intervention**

The Bethany Community School recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that the school is not a mental health treatment center. School personnel may recognize a potentially suicidal youth and, in such cases, may make a preliminary determination of the level of risk. The Board directs the school staff to refer students who come to their attention as being at risk of attempting suicide for professional assessment and treatment services outside of the school.

The Board recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish programs to assist staff to identify risk factors, intervention procedures, and procedures for referral to outside services. Training will be provided for teachers and other school staff and students to provide awareness and assistance in this area.

Any Board employee who has knowledge of a suicidal threat, attempt or ideation must immediately report this information to the building principal or his/her designee, who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school intervention team. The intervention team with administrative assistance, if necessary, will contact the student's family and appropriate resources outside and within the school system. Information concerning a student's suicide attempt, threat or risk will be shared with others to the degree necessary to protect that student and others.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221(e)

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991  
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