

MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SERIES 400 STUDENTS

457

SUICIDE PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Marshall Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a major mental health and social problem in contemporary America and is particularly acute for its youth. The Board also recognizes that suicide prevention, intervention and post-intervention is a community issue that necessitates coordination with public and private services available to the District and public education.

With these recognitions in mind, the District establishes the following plan of action.

1. **Prevention:** The establishment of faculty awareness on the warning signs of suicide and the establishment of suicidal prevention programming for students as an integral part of the curriculum. Specific goals are to:
 - a. Educate faculty to the dimensions of suicide and ways of recognizing and responding to suicidal students. The professional staff shall be informed annually of the suicide prevention resources available from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as required by state law.
 - b. Help student identify and “normalize” feelings, provide general knowledge and assist students in identifying an appropriate system of response.
 - c. Establish a crisis team within the Marshall Public School District. Members and responsibilities will be defined.
 - d. Provide information on the levels of suicidal risks for suicidal behavior occurring in or out of school, including prior to the school day. The roles of staff, administration and crisis team will be identified. An outside agency referral system will be established as part of the prevention/intervention program.
2. **Intervention:** The goals of the district are to provide help, guidance and referral for treatment when a student shows indications of suicidal tendencies. Since it is impossible to know if a student will actually employ self-destructive behavior, action should be taken as soon as possible. It should be realized that school personnel alone cannot be expected to negate this serious social problem, but it is believed that the school can play an important role in helping to prevent youth suicide. The school will establish a uniform protocol to respond to a potentially suicidal student and identify community agencies to ensure more effective assessment and referral of potentially suicidal students to the appropriate agency. Confidentiality will be maintained, and information will be shared on a “need to know” basis.
3. **Post-Intervention:** A uniform plan of response to disseminate facts will be established that will allow for structured expression of grieving within the daily activity of the

school. The goal is to ensure a factual, sensitive response, without glorifying the tragic event of suicide so that students can share and express, and work through their feelings in a structured environment.

The District and any school employee, who in good faith attempts to prevent suicide by a student, is immune from civil liability for their acts or omissions in respect to the suicide or attempted suicide as per state law.

Legal References:

Cross Reference:

Date of Adoption: December 16, 2009

Date of Revision: