



# Administrative Regulations

## ADMINISTRATION

1740

### RESPONDING TO SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR

This protocol is designed to guide school personnel in responding effectively to suicidal behaviour in troubled students, in those who threaten or attempt suicide, and in others potentially at risk in the aftermath of a death by suicide. Protocols clarify for school personnel their role in suicide prevention and crisis intervention and lessen the burden on individual school employees.

#### A. Prevention

1. Principals and teachers shall strive to ensure that all students receive instruction that promotes suicide prevention education, responsible decision-making, positive self-esteem and overall good emotional health.
2. Principals and teachers shall remain aware of current scientific knowledge and instructional techniques related to child and youth suicide prevention education.
3. Principals and teachers shall remain aware of the Child and Youth Suicide Prevention guide.
4. Students and parents shall be made aware of available counseling services and other support services outside of the school, as identified by the Child and Youth Suicide Prevention guide.
5. Encouragement and support shall be offered to those student organizations and activities that, in the opinion of the administrator, help to develop a positive peer influence in the area of child and youth suicide prevention.
6. The District Student Support Services will facilitate annual training of district protocols and procedures to respond to suicidal behaviour.
7. To be qualified to administer a suicide risk assessment, examiners will participate in annual training of protocols and procedures to respond to suicidal behaviour.

Page 1 of 3

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**Reference:** Board Policy 4.2  
Child and Youth Suicide Prevention Guide.

**Supt. Signature:**



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## ADMINISTRATION

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### B. Intervention

1. When there is a concern regarding suicide, the procedure (see attached or see section: Suicidal Behaviour Intervention Procedure) for a Suicide Risk Assessment will be initiated by qualified and trained personnel.
2. In making decisions about suicide intervention procedures, the administrator shall be guided by the concept of “in loco parentis” and shall consider what is best for the individual student as well as the health, safety and well being of other students and staff members.
3. If a youth’s life is in danger, the usual rules of confidentiality must be broken and the legal guardian must be informed. However, if informing the legal guardian is perceived to increase the level of risk to the youth, the Ministry of Children and Family Development must be notified immediately.
4. School staff involved with the student will connect the student and his/her parents to available counseling services and other supports outside of the school, as identified by the Child and Youth Suicide Prevention guide.

### C. Postvention

1. Postvention is a term used to describe support interventions following a death by suicide.
2. In the case of a death by suicide, the principal will initiate the District’s Critical Incident Response Team.

### D. Suicidal Behaviour Intervention Procedure

1. If a concern arises regarding the suicide risk of a child or youth the principal will be informed as soon as possible. Time shall be of the essence and priority given to expedite interventions and assistance.
2. The principal will facilitate the initiation of a suicide risk assessment by a person qualified to conduct a Suicide Risk Assessment as soon as possible.
3. The qualified examiner will conduct the Suicide Risk Assessment (See **ASK** the Questions in the Child and Youth Suicide Prevention guide).

Page 2 of 3

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## ADMINISTRATION

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### D. Suicidal Behaviour Intervention Procedure, cont'd

4. The qualified examiner in consultation with the school principal and another qualified examiner, if available, will **ASSESS** the level of risk as defined in the Child & Youth Suicide Prevention Guide.
5. The qualified examiner in consultation with the school principal and another qualified examiner, if available, will **ACT** on information and observations by following the action identified in the Child & Youth Suicide Prevention Guide.
6. If the risk is assessed as **HIGH**, provide one-to-one supervision of the child or youth at all times, until qualified suicide prevention supports and a plan are clearly in place including safe transport to the hospital emergency department.
7. If the risk is assessed as **MEDIUM**, provide one-to-one supervision for the child or youth at all times, until the parents have been informed, have a safety plan in place, and in person, take responsibility for the physical care of the child.
8. The qualified examiner will file a report of the incident with the Board Office.

Page 3 of 3

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Far', written over a horizontal line.