

Policy of the Lancaster Board of Education
Students

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROCEDURES

When any person employed by the school district of Lancaster shall have reason to believe, either by virtue of direct knowledge or a report from another person, that a student is in danger of harming him or herself through an attempted suicide, that person is to report the situation immediately. The procedure to report this situation is as follows:

1. Contact the building Principal and/or school counselor. Do not leave the suicidal student without adult supervision for any amount of time while making this contact. If the student's life is in imminent danger, summon law enforcement personal to transport the student to the nearest hospital emergency room.

2. The building Principal and the counselor shall make sure two groups are contacted - first contact the student's parents and request that they meet with the school staff immediately. Secondly, an outside contact must be made, such as clergy, social services, law enforcement, etc. The group shall be informed that this child has attempted or is planning to attempt suicide. This meeting may take place at the school's office, at the County Department of Social Services Agency, or at a hospital depending on the danger to the student's life. (The building Principal shall determine the location of the meeting.)

3. If the danger to the student is not imminent, the Principal and/or the counselor shall determine if it is appropriate to involve the County Department of Social Services and/or other groups at this time or to urge the parents to involve these agencies.

4. After the immediate crisis has been resolved, the Principal and the counselor shall meet to evaluate the situation and decide on an appropriate role for the school to take in assisting the student. The counselor will attempt to keep close contact with the student and the community agencies treating the student to insure a coordinated school-agency approach. However, it is a parental responsibility for this follow-up effort.

5. All teachers, as requested by the helping professional involved with the student, shall be invited to an informational staffing to assist them in appropriately dealing with the student.

6.The counselor shall maintain a written record of all actions taken by the school in the case and shall perform a monitoring and follow-up function to support the student and assist the teachers after the student returns to class. The counselor, if agreeable with parents, will attempt to maintain weekly contact with parents during a 90-day time period after the referral.

7.The counselor shall make a report to the building Principal and/or team of involved teachers at the end of 90 days to clarify the status of the student at that time. The Principal and the team of involved teachers shall determine what, if any, further action shall be taken.

8.The counselor shall meet with the student's parents to inform them of the decision of the school staff on district follow-up and to obtain their reaction. Contact agencies are listed below.

Unified Counseling	723-7666
Grant County Social Services	723-2136
Lancaster Police Department	723-4188
Grant County Sheriff's Department	723-2157
Lancaster Memorial Hospital	723-2143
Grant County Nurses Office	723-6416
Rescue Ambulance	723-2196
Tri-County Human Services	1-647-3702
Boscobel Psychiatric Unit	1-375-2540

Clergy are listed in the brochure.

Approved:

January 10, 1990

