

5210: SUICIDAL PUPIL PROTECTION PROCEDURES (AP)

Approved: 87 12 01

POLICY

The Board recognizes that school personnel will, from time to time, become aware or receive reports of pupils contemplating or attempting suicide.

The Board expects school personnel to firstly provide for the immediate protection and support of the pupil, and secondly, to inform parents/guardians and to refer the pupil to his/her family doctor and/or other community agencies for assessment and support. The Board cannot provide intensive counseling therapeutic follow-up required for suicidal pupils and their families.

1.0 PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED UPON RECOGNITION OF A POTENTIAL SUICIDAL PUPIL

- 1.1 Relevant school personnel will provide immediate support and protection to the pupil.
- 1.2 Parent/guardian, or as in 3.2 the Ministry for Children and Family Development, will be notified.
- 1.3 District approved community agencies and/or the family doctor may be contacted for immediate assistance or referral. In the event of the unavailability of the above, the RCMP will be contacted to assist in the transportation of the pupil to the emergency ward of the local hospital.
- 1.4 School personnel will continue to provide in-school support to the pupil, the family and the referral agency.

2.0 RECOGNITION OF PUPILS AT RISK

- 2.1 Generally, school personnel will become aware of students at risk through
 - i) report(s) by concerned friends or parents
 - ii) observation by teachers or counselors
 - iii) contact by community agencies

3.0 NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS

- 3.1 The teacher of principal must notify parents or guardians when there is reason to believe that a pupil is potentially suicidal (see 3.2)
- 3.2 The only exception to 3.1 is when there is reason to believe that the pupil is suicidal because of abuse or neglect at home. In such cases, the teacher or principal shall notify the Ministry for Children and Family Development who shall accept the responsibility of notification of parents of guardians.

4.0 COMMUNITY AGENCIES APPROVED FOR REFERRAL

- 4.1 The School Medical Officer shall be requested in August of each year to approve a list of community agencies deemed suitable to receive referrals of potentially suicidal pupils.
- 4.2 Unless otherwise notified, the following community agencies are suitable for referral:

Agency	Telephone	Fax
Family Guidance	724-0125	724-1035
Mental Health	720-2650	720-2626
Port Alberni Chapliancy Agency	723-2135	
Nuu-chah-nulth Mental Health	724-2535	
Mental Health		
Ucluelet	726-1282	
Tofino	725-2720	
West Coast General Hospital	723-2135	724-8805
Ministry for Children & Families	720-2650	720-2680
RCMP	723-2424	
KUU-US-CRISIS LINE	1-800-588-8717	
Native Families in Crisis	725-2022	
Tofino General Hospital	725-3212	