

PROCEDURES FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Prevention:

1. LEARN through its administration will identify social service agencies, mental health clinics, and other community resources that have expertise in the problem of youth suicide for the purpose of developing education and referral sources for LEARN.
2. LEARN will develop in-service programs for teachers, administrators, and for appropriate personnel for the purpose of enhancing their ability to recognize those students who may be vulnerable to, or at risk, for suicide. Training will include, but may not be limited to, information about factors that increase a student's risk for suicide; recognition of the behavioral signs that may indicate that a student is suicidal; information on community resources available for students that may need assistance; information regarding school procedures for handling a suicidal student.
3. LEARN will make resources available for students at risk of suicide. LEARN will also make guidance resources available to students subsequent to a suicide attempt by one of their peers.
4. LEARN may establish a youth assistance program for the purpose of developing educational programs for students about the risk factors related to suicide and the community resources available for students who may need counseling.

Intervention:

If any member of the teaching, guidance, or administrative staff is confronted by a student who makes a statement of suicidal thinking or, for any other reason suspects that an attempt at suicide is possible, then the mental health professional involved with the program will be notified and he/she will meet with the student to evaluate if the student is indeed at risk. If the mental health professional is unavailable, the LEARN School Nurse will be contacted. If the LEARN School Nurse is unavailable, the host school nurse will be contacted if appropriate. If the student is judged at risk, the following procedures must be followed:

1. The Program Director must be advised immediately. If the Program Director is not available and if there are no designees available, then the Executive Director must be notified.
2. The student will be brought to the program office or the school office. Under no circumstances is the student to be left alone.
3. The student's parents/guardians and appropriate referring agency will be notified.
4. Any outside therapists involved with the student will be notified.
5. The student's parents/guardians will be referred to a local physician or community agency for emergency intervention and counseling.