

Policy

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The River Edge Board of Education is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of students during the school day, and will take action necessary to provide for the safety and security of its students, staff and/or property. In crisis situations, the board reserves the right to remove any student, staff member, or other individual when they have been determined to pose an imminent or potential threat to student or staff safety, or school property.

Examples of Crisis Situations

Examples of crisis situations include but are not limited to:

- A. Actions creating an imminent danger to the student or others, e.g., suicidal or homicidal ideation or attempts.
- B. Verbalization or other actions threatening the health, safety or well-being of the student, staff or other students;
- C. Verbalization or other actions reflecting an intent or plan to harm the student or others;
- D. Verbalization or other actions indicating that the student may be at risk of causing harm to the student or others; or
- E. Possession of one or more objects or materials posing a threat to the health, safety or wellbeing of the student, staff or other students.

Discipline

- A. Student's identified as being suicidal, self-destructive, or experiencing a personal mental health crisis may be removed from school and readmitted once medically cleared by a physician or licensed mental health service provider. Disciplinary consequences may not be imposed. Appropriate actions shall be taken to ensure that the student does not present a danger to him/herself or others.,
- B. Disciplinary actions for infractions of school policies and/or regulations regarding substance abuse, weapons and dangerous instruments and violence and vandalism (board policies 5131.6 Substance Abuse, 5131.5 Violence and Vandalism, and 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments) the board policy manual shall be imposed according to the code of student conduct;
- C. A students presenting a threat to the safety and wellbeing of him/herself, others or school property shall be removed from school and shall only be readmitted to school with certification from a physician or licensed mental health service provider that the student no long presents a threat to the safety and wellbeing of him/herself, others or school property

Procedures

In situations where a student presents as an imminent danger to himself or others, school emergency procedures will be followed:

- A. Staff members shall immediately notify the school principal, or his/her designee, of any potential crisis situations;

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- B. In response to every report, the school principal (or designee) shall immediately:
1. Notify the crisis intervention team (or other designated team/individual responsible for the initial assessment of the student);
 2. Notify the superintendent; and
 3. Notify the student's parent or legal guardian.

The principal or designee may notify the emergency medical services or the police as necessary and appropriate.

- C. In response to every report, the crisis intervention team, consisting of the principal and the, school psychologist, student assistance coordinator and/or social worker, shall conduct a student interview to assess whether or not the student presents as a potential danger to him/herself or others, and to determine whether or not the student requires a mental health assessment prior to reinstatement;
- D. In all cases where a student is determined to be at risk of harm to hem/herself, others or school property, a medical and/or mental health evaluation shall be required;
- E. Provisions shall be made for the appropriate care and supervision of the student pending either:
1. A determination by the crisis intervention team that the student's exclusion is not required; or
 2. The student's release to his or her parent/guardian.

Assessment and Reinstatement

- A. If the crisis intervention team determines that the student presents as a potential danger to him/herself or others and requires a mental health assessment prior to reinstatement, the principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of this determination.
- B. The assessment must be completed by a licensed or certified mental health professional (e.g., psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker or psychiatric nurse) outside of the school system who is not an employee of the Board of Education. The principal or designee shall provide the student's parents/guardians with appropriate referral information for qualified mental health providers.
1. Assessments completed by evaluators selected by the school district shall be at the expense of the school district.
 2. Assessments completed by evaluators selected by the student's parent/guardian shall be at the expense of the parent.
- C. For purposes of the assessment, it is necessary for the evaluator to have access to all relevant information regarding the student and the incident giving rise to the exclusion. The student's parent/guardian shall be asked to provide consent for a member of the crisis intervention team to contact the professional completing the evaluation to provide necessary background information.

If a parent/guardian cannot be reached and the student is screened and/or assessed by the appropriate school personnel as being in imminent danger of harming him/herself or others, the school may contact emergency medical services.

- D. The assessment (separate from the clearance letter) must include:
1. Identifying information;
 2. Medical and family history;
 3. Review of presenting problem or incident;
 4. Mental status examination;
 5. Diagnosis, as appropriate;
 6. Recommendations for follow-up services as appropriate; and
 7. Other information deemed relevant by the assessor.

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E. The clearance letter provided to the school must include:

1. Evaluator's name and license number;
2. Student's name and date of birth;
3. Confirmation that the evaluator fully assessed the student in accordance with the standards describe in above (D. 1-7) and in connection with the precipitating school-based incident;
4. The date of the assessment; and
5. A specific statement that the student does not present as a danger to him/herself or others at this time.

F. If the parents or guardians assume the cost of the assessment (through a provider of their own choosing), the resulting assessment report is their property, and will require their consent before being released to the school district. Parents/guardians shall be required to provide consent to release for the assessment results and a letter of clearance before the student shall be readmitted to school;

G. The board reserves the right to require that a student be examined by a school authorized doctor or mental health services provider prior to readmission to school. The district shall bear the cost of such an examination.

Re-Entry to School

Following receipt of the school clearance letter, the district shall schedule a re-entry meeting with the child and his/her parents/guardians and an appropriate school district designee. Discussion may include, but is not limited to:

- A. Consideration of child study team referral, as appropriate;
- B. Discussion with parents/guardians regarding assessment information and follow-up treatment, as necessary;
- C. Discussion with parents/guardians regarding access to additional evaluative information (beyond clearance letter);
- D. Discussion with parents/guardians regarding any accommodations that may be implemented to assist the student's return to school and ongoing attendance at school.

Instruction During Exclusion

Students will be provided with appropriate home or other out-of-school instruction in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 et seq. during any period of exclusion (see board policy 6173 Home Instruction).

Adopted: August 20, 1996
 Revised: August 23, 2011, December 13, 2016
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Key Words

Crisis, Self-Mutilation, Self Destructive, Suicide, Depression, Cutting

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-23 to 26 AED emergency medical services, 1999 statute
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 et seq. Instruction in Suicide Prevention
See particularly:
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-113 Instruction in suicide prevention in public school curriculum
N.J.S.A. 18A:16-6, -6.1 Indemnity of officers and employees against civil

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	actions
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.6 <u>et seq.</u>	<u>Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979</u>
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-1	Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-3	Lectures to teachers
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-5	Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-6	In general
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40A-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Substance Abuse
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 44:6-2	Maintenance by boards of education of clinics for indigent children
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Programs to Support Student Development
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1, -1.3, -1.4, -2.1, -2.3, -2.4	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Operation and Maintenance of School Facilities
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.3	

Possible

Cross References:

*1410	Local units
*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
*3516	Safety
*4112.4/4212.4	Employee health
*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
*5125	Student records
*5131	Conduct/discipline
*5131.1	Harassment, intimidation and bullying
*5131.6	Substance abuse
*5131.7	Weapons and dangerous instruments
*5141.1	Accidents
*5141.2	Illness
*5141.21	Administering medication
*5142	Student safety
*5145.11	Questioning and apprehension
*5145.12	Search and seizure
*6173	Home instruction

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.