Suicide Prevention and Intervention

2417.00

The Monticello Board of Education recognizes that childhood/adolescent suicide and suicidal tendencies are a continuing problem within the elementary and secondary schools. Communication and cooperation with the school district between the home, school, and community is viewed as critical. The school board establishes this policy in an effort to take positive steps toward preventing childhood/adolescent suicides and for outlining procedures by which students can receive professional help and support.

The goals of the school are to provide help, guidance and referral for treatment when a student shows indications of suicidal tendencies. Since it is impossible to know if a student will actually employ self-destructive behavior, action should be taken as soon as possible. It should be realized that the school can play an important role in helping youth to prevent suicide.

The school district shall provide an instructional program designed to give students the skills needed to make sound decisions, knowledge of the conditions which may cause and the signs of suicidal tendencies, knowledge of the relationship between youth suicide and the use of alcohol and controlled substances under state law and knowledge of available community youth suicide prevention and intervention services. Instruction shall be designed to help prevent suicides by students by promoting positive emotional development.

In order to meet the goals outlined in the policy, the school district shall provide the following:
The District will establish a crisis team. Members and responsibilities will be defined.
The District will provide information on the levels of suicidal risks for suicidal behavior occurring in or out of school, including prior to the school day. The roles of staff, administration and the crisis team will be identified. An outside agency referral system will be established as part of the prevention/intervention program.

Civil liability immunity will be explained and established as it relates to suicide prevention/intervention.

Staff members will be provided with learning opportunities to enhance staff knowledge of the issues surrounding suicide.

Instruction shall be designed to help prevent childhood/adolescent suicides by promoting the positive emotional development of students.

Warning signs of an emergency and support network information sheet will be made available.

Any school board officer, employee or volunteer thereof, who in good faith attempts to prevent suicide by a student is immune from civil liability for his/her acts or omissions in respect to

suicide or attempted suicide. (This civil liability is in addition to, and not in lieu of, that provided under §895.48.

Legal References:	Wisconsin State Statutes	115.365 118.01(2)(d)7 895.48
Approved:	September 9, 2009	