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ADOLESCENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The Rumson Board of Education believes the physical and mental well-being of all students must be maintained as a prerequisite to achievement through the formal educational process. Recognizing that the incidence of adolescent suicide is on the rise, and that suicide is the number two killer of young people between the ages of 15 and 24, the board wishes to insure that appropriate awareness and prevention programs are initiated and continued in the Rumson School District.

Because it believes that the entire staff of the Rumson School District, as well as the students, can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of adolescent suicide, and that the success of such an effort depends to a large extent upon the understanding and support of the total community, the Rumson Board of Education directs the superintendent to develop and implement a comprehensive and continuing adolescent suicide awareness and prevention program for the entire school community. Since the necessary professional expertise to carry out such a program may not be adequately available within the school system, it also directs the superintendent to identify a community mental health agency able to provide the necessary assistance and to establish a continuing cooperative relationship with them in this effort.

The Rumson Board of Education directs that the program developed, help the school staff, parents/guardians and students:

- Understand the developmental stages of adolescence and the causes of teen suicide.
- Recognize the early warning signs of adolescent suicide.
- Learn how to help in a suicidal crisis.
- Identify community resources and procedures that can help a suicidal person.
- Identify a professional on the school staff to act as a contact person for students and staff.

The superintendent shall also develop appropriate administrative regulations and procedures for the implementation of the program and insure their dissemination to staff, students and parents/guardians.

Date: July 17, 1985

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:11-1	General Mandatory Powers and Duties
<u>N.J.A.C.</u>	6:6-4.4	Staff Inservice Programs

Cross References:

110	Communication with the public
1400	Relations between other governmental agencies and the schools
4131-4231	Staff development
5142	Student safety
6140	Curriculum adoption
6162.4	Community resources
6164.2	Guidance services
6164.4	Child study team

