

POLICY

Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: 8468

CRISIS INTERVENTION & VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The Board of Education encourages all school personnel to be alert to the warning signs of violence in children and adolescents, and to be knowledgeable of procedures to follow in the event he or she becomes aware or suspects the existence of such a problem. School personnel shall respond to those signs in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall establish guidelines and procedures to deal with these types of behaviors of students. In-service training for educators and for counseling staff will be provided. Educational programs which seek to prevent violence (anger management, stress management, and social-emotional problem-solving strategies) will be available to students through curriculum and instruction.

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to be prepared to confront circumstances in which the physical and/or mental well being of pupils, staff and other individuals on school grounds is threatened or overtly impacted upon by an individual or group of individuals. Situations at issue include, but are not limited to:

- an accident involving a student or staff member;
- suicide or homicide;
- substance overdose;
- death of classmate(s) or teacher;
- severe violence (e.g., gang fight);
- assault on a teacher or administrator;
- hostage situation on school grounds;
- child molestation;
- sniper attack;
- kidnapping;
- terrorist activities;
- fire or chemical spill at school;
- plane, train, boat, bus or automobile accident; and
- natural disasters (e.g., tornado, flood, earthquake, etc.)

Such crisis is frightening and leaves students and staff feeling vulnerable and helpless. The danger of a crisis is that it can be devastating with debilitating and long-term effects. This is what the Board of Education seeks to avoid by having a Crisis Intervention Plan in place. The Board believes that an appropriate, planned response can be stabilizing and can bring about positive change. Thus, the Board believes that the goals of the Crisis Intervention are:

- to stabilize the system;
- to maintain structure and order in the school routine;

POLICY

Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: 8468

CRISIS INTERVENTION & VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- to facilitate the expression of grief in a controlled and organized way;
- to restore a feeling of security and control; and
- to use the opportunity of the crisis to promote health and growth within the individual and the school community.

The Board establishes through the person of the Superintendent or his/her designee a Crisis Management Team at each school in our District whose responsibility it shall be to:

- SERVE as a source of objective and verified information;
- FUNCTION as a vehicle through which direct services may be delivered;
- BE an advisory source to the principal or his/her designee, and/or other agents or agencies dealing with the crisis situation.
- RESPOND to an identified crisis at the school or district level.

The District Crisis Management Team in each school shall consist of the following membership:

- Director of Special Services;
- At least one (1) representative from each school building;
- When determined necessary by the Superintendent or his/her designee, the following:
 - School Doctor (as needed)
 - Transportation Coordinator
 - Others - e.g., a representative of the local police, fire department, and first aid squad, other school or community representatives.

The District Crisis Management Team shall meet on a regular basis with the Director of Special Services to:

- Review established policy and procedures;
- Orient new members as to their responsibilities;
- Update and disseminate the emergency telephone chain;
- Maintain and reinforce lines of communication between the various disciplines and specialists who make up the Crisis Management Team; and
- Plan for Staff Development and Training.

The District Crisis Management Team will disseminate information and provide training to building staff.

A School Emergency Operation Plan will be developed by each building principal in collaboration with the Bernards Township Police Department.

POLICY

Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: 8468

CRISIS INTERVENTION & VIOLENCE PREVENTION

A Community Emergency Response Advisory Team will be developed by the Superintendent or his/her designee and will include representatives from local law enforcement, county emergency services, clergy, health department and local agencies.

ADOPTED: December 15, 2008