

Policy

CRISIS INTERVENTION AND POST-INTERVENTION PLAN

The Alloway Township Board of Education is concerned with the safety and emotional well-being of students, staff, and parents/guardians. Recognizing that crises do arise, the board directs the superintendent to ensure that appropriate action is taken immediately. In order to accomplish this, a crisis management plan has been developed to manage crises that impact the safety and emotional well-being of students, staff, and parents/guardians. The crisis management plan shall integrate and utilizes district and community resources in a comprehensive manner.

Definition of Crisis

For the purposes of this policy, crisis is defined as any event in the school and/or community that may compromise the safety of the school community and/or lead to emotional distress, psychological trauma, or severe and prolonged stress. Situations include, but are not limited to the death of a student, staff member or family member, attempted suicide(s), series of deaths, school violence, or threats of violence.

The following examples constitute situations that may result in a crisis and require intervention:

- A. Drug overdose of a student;
- B. Accidental, suicide or intended death of a student;
- C. Accidental or intended death of a professional or support staff member or a suicide;
- D. Serious automobile or bus accident (on or off campus);
- E. Student disaster involving loss of life and affecting members of the student body;
- F. A disaster involving major property damage to the school buildings and possible student or staff injury and/or loss of life (fire, explosion, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, and/or unforeseen catastrophe);
- G. Hostage situation;
- H. Other (bomb threat, building intruder, hazardous materials, severe weather).

Awareness and Prevention

It is essential for students and staff to develop an awareness of crises and learn how to prevent them.

The following recommendations should be made part of regular school operations:

- A. Programs shall be conducted for the staff on crisis awareness, prevention, and management;
- B. Programs shall be conducted for students and parents/guardians on crisis awareness, prevention, and management;
- C. Information and resources shall be provided regarding crisis awareness, prevention, and management;
- D. The entire school community shall be informed regarding the crisis management plan, policy, and procedures;

CRISIS INTERVENTION AND POST-INTERVENTION PLAN (continued)

- E. A copy of the crisis management plan policy and procedures will be made readily available in all school buildings;
- F. The crisis management policy and procedures shall be reviewed annually and revisions made when deemed appropriate.

The Reporting Process

- A. All crises must be reported without exception to the superintendent or his/her designee in a timely manner;
- B. The reporting process may be initiated by any member of the school community;
- C. The superintendent or his/her designee will gather all relevant information and refer to the "Emergency Procedures and Immediate Action Manual;"
- D. The superintendent or his/her designee will be involved throughout the crisis until the resolution of the crisis.

Communication

Once safety is assured and interim support is in place:

- A. The superintendent or his/her designee will determine if contact with outside agencies is necessary and who will serve as liaison;
- B. The superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the parents/guardians as soon as responsibly possible regarding crises that involve the entire school such as a natural disaster;
- C. The superintendent or his/her designee shall contact the parents/guardians of the students directly involved in the crisis and will determine to what extent other parents/guardians may be contacted;
- D. If a determination is made that the student should be released directly to the parents/guardians, the parents/guardians will be requested to come to the school immediately. If the parents/guardians are reluctant to pick up the student or are not in agreement with the team's recommendation regarding emergency services, the superintendent or his/her designee has the authority to call an appropriate agency, organization and/or professional that may provide assistance (i.e., New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency - DCP&P);
- E. If a determination has been made that emergency services are needed, the parents/guardians shall be notified that they must provide documentation that a student may return to school at a mandatory reentry meeting with the superintendent or his/her designee.

Follow-Up Activities

Prior to the return of the student, the superintendent or his/her designee shall meet with other staff members when appropriate, to discuss a plan of action that addresses the needs of the student returning, other students, and/or staff.

Information, if available, shall be obtained from any professionals, agencies and/or organizations with which the student was involved. This information should be shared with the appropriate staff members and parents/guardians of students who are directly involved. Any recommendation and/or sharing of information must be considered in relation to the school's responsibility, district policy, legal mandates and confidentiality.

Prior to reopening the school after a schoolwide crisis or disaster, the superintendent or his/her designee shall meet with other staff members when appropriate, to discuss a plan of action that addresses the needs of the students and staff members returning.

CRISIS INTERVENTION AND POST-INTERVENTION PLAN (continued)

Adopted: January 25, 2005
 Revised: January 22, 2013
 NJSBA Review/Update: January 2020, April 2025
 Readopted:

Key Words

Crisis, Crisis Intervention; Suicide, Suicidal Ideation, Staff Training

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A: 6-112 Instruction in suicide prevention for public school staff
N.J.S.A. 18A:1011-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 30:9A-12 Youth suicide prevention program

Possible

Cross References: *5020 Role of parents/guardians
 *5113 Absences and excuses
 *5114 Suspension and expulsion
 *5120 Assessment of individual needs
 *5124 Reporting to parents/guardians
 *5125 Student records
 *5131 Conduct/discipline
 *5131.6 Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
 *5141 Student health
 *5142 Safety
 *6164.2 Guidance Services
 *6164.4 Child study team
 *6171.1 Remedial instruction
 *6171.2 Gifted and talented
 *6171.4 Special education
 *6172 Alternative educational programs
 *6173 Home instruction

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