

5351 PUPIL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The Randolph Township Board of Education recognizes that school district personnel must take seriously all suggestions, demonstrations, or communications of life-threatening violence. When confronted with an actual situation in which violent and life-threatening behavior or ideation is present, commitment to pupil confidentiality is superseded by the imperative for initiating effective intervention.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to insure implementation of an awareness and prevention program and a violence response plan. District programs on the recognition, prevention and management of life-threatening violent behavior and ideation will be conducted as appropriate for staff, pupils and parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

In order to prevent violence, the district has developed a Violence Response Plan to manage the referral process, evaluation of the pupil(s) involved and crisis follow-up. The Violence Response Plan involves support for pupils, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and staff provided by district and community resources. Failure of a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult pupil to cooperate fully with the guidelines set forth in this policy and the Violence Response Plan may result in a hearing before the Board of Education and the pupil's expulsion from school.

All suggestions, demonstrations, or communications of life-threatening violence are subject to the following response:

1. Life-threatening violent behavior or ideation must be reported to the Building Principal immediately.
2. The Building Principal shall determine if it is necessary to implement the referral process and evaluation/action procedures within the established Violence Response Plan.
3. The Building Principal shall notify the Superintendent of the situation and the level of evaluation/action deemed necessary as soon as possible. Under no circumstances is the notification to exceed twenty four hours.

In no case should any staff member take it upon him/herself to counsel a pupil outside of this policy and the established Violence Response Plan.

Within twenty school days of the adoption of this policy, and annually at the beginning of the school year, the Building Principal shall hold an in-service meeting with all staff to review this Violence Prevention Policy and Response Plan.



Situations in which violent and life-threatening behavior or ideation is present require the immediate implementation of established procedures for referral, evaluation and follow-up as outlined below. Procedures within this Plan are subject to appropriate State and federal laws including the Individuals with Disabilities in Educations Act.

A. Referral Process

1. Any staff member, pupil or parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who has reason to believe that a pupil has violent or life-threatening intentions shall notify the Principal immediately.
2. The Principal or designee with the school psychologist or school social worker in attendance shall conduct an interview of the pupil to determine if further evaluation/action is needed.

B. Evaluation/Action

1. If, following the interview of the pupil and consultation with the school psychologist or social worker, the Principal determines that further evaluation is not warranted, the Principal shall:
 - a. Reserve the right to discipline the pupil as appropriate.
 - b. Take any other reasonable actions warranted under the circumstances.
2. If, following the interview of the pupil and consultation with the school psychologist or social worker, the Principal determines that further evaluation and intervention is warranted, the Principal shall:
 - a. Notify pupil's guidance counselor or Vice Principal.
 - b. Notify the local police immediately of the incident and cooperate with their investigation.
 - c. Contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to pick up the pupil immediately and seek an assessment for level of risk prior to returning to school.
 - d. Notify the potential victim and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the potential victim is a minor.
 - e. Notify the Director of Special Services, Assistant Superintendent, and the



school – level Crisis Response Team.

- f. Have the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), (or in the case of an adult pupil) have the **adult** pupil; sign a two way release of information to allow district staff to speak to the pupil's treating mental health care provider.
- g. Have the pupil seen by a Board approved psychiatrist at Board expense within ten school days.
- h. Take any other reasonable actions warranted under the circumstances.
- i. Provide an option for home instruction if appropriate.

C. Follow-up

1. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the appropriate school personnel and the district's designated mental health professional will hold a reentry meeting concerning the appropriateness of the pupil's return to school. They shall make a recommendation in that regard to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall then determine whether the pupil may return to school and shall report the outcome to the Board of Education. If the Superintendent determines not to allow the pupil to return to school, the pupil or the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may appeal that decision to the Board. In the event of an appeal, the Board of Education will make the final determination regarding the pupil's return to school following a hearing before the Board.
2. When the pupil returns to school, the pupil's guidance counselor shall monitor the pupil's adjustment to school through meetings with the pupil and consultations with the classroom teachers. The guidance counselor shall report as needed to the Principal.
3. District and State documentation shall be done by appropriate administration. Copies of district reports shall be kept in the school nurse's secured medical file, as well as in the pupil's file. When a pupil moves from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school, his/her report(s) shall be hand delivered to the nurse of the receiving school.

D. Post - Incident



In actual situations of violence or life-threatening behavior, the district's Crisis Response Team will be notified by the Director of Special Services and Superintendent will determine appropriate venues for communication.

DRAFT

Adopted: 17 July 2012

Revised:

