

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Millburn Public Schools

INFORMATION ITEM

May 2, 2011

To: Board of Education Members

From: Ellen E. Mauer, PhD

Subject: Policy 7:290-Adolescent Suicide Awareness and Prevention Programs

This policy is revised to update all legal and cross-references. The new policy adds language requiring the district to develop liaisons with the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee, the Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition Alliance, and/or community mental health agencies to implement the goals of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan.

We can use this as our first reading and place this on the consent agenda for next time.

Students

Adolescent Suicide Awareness and Prevention Programs ¹

The Superintendent is directed to develop and implement a comprehensive and continuing adolescent suicide awareness and prevention program. The Superintendent will attempt to develop a liaison among the District and the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee, the Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition Alliance, and/or a community mental health agency to implement the goals and objectives of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan. ²

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:60 (Curriculum Content)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ A suicide awareness and prevention program is optional. 105 ILCS 5/3-14.8 requires the regional superintendents to cover the warning signs of suicidal behavior in teacher's institutes. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39, amended by P.A. 96-951, requires school guidance counselors, teachers, school social workers, and other school personnel who work with students in grades 7 through 12 to be trained to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior in adolescents and teens along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques. P.A. 96-951 added opportunities to earn continuing professional development credits through participation in or presenting at an in-service training program on suicide prevention that is jointly approved by the State Teacher Certification Board and ISBE.

In suburban Cook County, an Intermediate Service Center will perform the responsibilities that are performed in other locations by the regional superintendent (P.A. 96-893).

² This plan may be found at: www.idph.state.il.us/about/chronic/Suicide_Prevention_Plan_Jan-08.pdf. Its goals and objectives reflect the input of public and private organizations and stakeholders that are concerned with mental health. It is designed to reduce suicide through a positive public health approach. The target dates for implementing these goals and objectives start in 2010 with target dates of completion in 2012. See also the Suicide Resource Center at www.sprc.org/stateinformation/statepages/showstate.asp?stateID=13 for more information on which goals in the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan have been implemented. The Suicide Resource Center has an awareness public prevention pilot program titled "It Only Takes One," available at: www.itonlytakesone.org/.