

INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Student Suicide Threat or Attempt Policy

Policy S-07

The School Board and the Superintendent of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A student who suffers the psychological disability of depression cannot benefit fully from the educational program of the schools, and a student who has attempted self-destruction poses a danger both to himself/herself and to other students.

The Board and the Superintendent directs all school personnel to be alert to the student who exhibits signs of unusual depression or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness. It is the policy directive of the Board that all ISBVI employees, contractors or volunteers to be alert to the student who exhibits signs of unusual depression or who threatens or attempts suicide. A suicide threat is defined as a verbal or written statement or physical gesture that implies, indicates, or signals the student's intention or decision to fatally harm him or herself. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness.

Individuals who are aware of, or suspect the potential for a student suicide threat or attempt, shall immediately accompany the student to the ISBVI Health Center where the student will be evaluated by qualified staff who will determine the necessity for emergency medical intervention. The school social worker or nurse will notify the superintendent and the parents. If the situation is deemed a medical emergency, the student will be transported to the nearest or most appropriate medical facility for observation and/or treatment.

Failure of ISBVI employees, contractors, or volunteers to immediately report their awareness or suspicion of the potential for a student suicide threat or attempt violates ISBVI policy and ISBVI administrative directives and subjects the individual to possible disciplinary action consistent with the State Personnel Discipline Policy and/other possible legal sanctions.

The ISBVI Board directs the ISBVI Superintendent to ensure ISBVI staff, contractors, and volunteer compliance with this policy consistent with statutory requirements by:

- 1) Developing ISBVI Administrative Directives and Procedures to implement the ISBVI Board Policy on Student Suicide Threat or Attempt to a) serve as notice to staff and volunteers; and b) clearly delineate and detail their responsibilities, expectations, and procedures;
- 2) Providing ISBVI staff, contractors, and volunteers written notice and documenting their awareness and receipt of these documents by obtaining their signatures;

- 3) Affording initial and periodic on-going training to ISBVI staff, contractors and volunteers on the ISBVI Board Policy on Student Suicide Threat or Attempt and accompanying ISBVI Administrative Directives and Procedures.

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Reviewed and Approved: 10/21/13, 8/20/18