

Regulation

COUNSELING SERVICES

The child study team delivery system provides proactive and comprehensive services to assist all students. Specific emphasis is placed upon prevention and early detection of learning and other difficulties encountered by adolescents and their families.

Special services include those required by law and regulation for the identification of students with educational disabilities and services provided for the entire school community. Extended services include: counseling, consultation with parents/guardians and students, crisis and emergency intervention for suicidal or other self-destructive ideation or behavior; and grief counseling in response to tragic events.

Counseling Services

Counseling services shall be provided to all students on a "walk-in" basis when the student voluntarily seeks such assistance. Students may be seen for a maximum of three (3) sessions after which continued intervention shall be approved in writing by the student's parent or guardian.

Presenting problems which will be considered appropriate for school based counseling center shall be adolescent issues such as peer relations, adjustment to the demands of school or home, dating, or similar issues. More serious problems, which suggest the presence of mental illness or the need for psychotherapy, will be immediately brought to the attention of the parent or guardian with the recommendation to seek treatment from private sources or public agencies outside of the school.

Counseling Services in Crisis Situations

Student referrals for cases of suspected suicide shall be initiated by any staff member who has concerns about a student's functioning. The following procedures will be utilized:

- A. To initiate the referral, the staff member/person concerned shall notify the student's guidance counselor, director of student personnel services, or school psychologist. In the event that these persons are unavailable the principal and/or superintendent shall be notified;
- B. The student will be seen immediately to begin the counseling process and to determine the severity and degree of the presenting problem;
- C. The principal and/or the superintendent and the director of student personnel services will be notified immediately of any such referral;
- D. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by the appropriate personnel;
- E. The child study team and/or outside agencies will provide the necessary intervention;
- F. Follow-up will be provided for the staff involved with the student.

Discussion of the issue of teenage suicide in class is discouraged. If a student initiates discussion or asks questions in class about teenage suicide, the teacher shall direct the student to stay after class to pursue the topic, and return attention to the classroom subject. The teacher shall ensure that they talk with the student after class to assess if there may be concern for the student's wellbeing.

COUNSELING SERVICES (regulation continued)Referral to the Child Study Team

Student referral for other types of emergencies, academic and/or behavior assessment shall be approved by the principal and sent to the Child Study Team. These include:

- A. The threat or actual performance of behavior that may seriously impair the physical safety of the student or others in the school setting;
- B. An acute and severe emotional reaction which cannot be dealt with appropriately through existing school channels, and which may necessitate emergency treatment through medical or mental health facilities;
- C. Any other situation involving students deemed as an emergency by the principal;

Procedures for Referral to the Child Study Team

The following procedures will be followed when a student is referred to the Child Study Team for other types of emergencies, academic and/or behavior assessment:

- A. Consultation will be held with appropriate school staff, to gather as much information as possible in a brief time;
- B. If available, the school psychologist will interview the student, otherwise the student will be interviewed by a staff member assigned by the principal or the superintendent;
- C. Results of the interview shall be reported to the child study team;
- D. The child study team will evaluate the available information and present recommendations for possible action to the principal and/or the superintendent.

Child study team and crisis counseling services will be provided for students and staff in the event of a catastrophic incident. These types of incidents include peer death or suicide, critical or fatal accidents affecting person(s) of perceived significance, natural disasters, or similar occurrences.

Response to Tragic Events

These procedures for staff action should be used in the event of a tragedy affecting the Shore Regional High School community. It is understood that these procedures would be adapted to the particular and unique characteristics of a tragic event. This type of incident includes, but is not limited to, peer death or suicide, critical or fatal accidents affecting person(s) of perceived significance, natural disasters, or other similar types of occurrences.

The purpose of this program is to provide the school district with guidelines and strategies for an immediate response to a tragic event. The goals of the program are:

- A. To control activities and events which may arise following a death;
- B. To bring the feelings of grief, loss and fear of death to the fore;
- C. To facilitate the processing and acceptance of those feelings; and then
- D. To bring the grieving to closure.

Program implementation is to be accomplished by the school's administrators, the faculty trained in grief counseling, and the professional staff of the guidance and Special Services Departments.

Response Teams

COUNSELING SERVICES (regulation continued)

Four teams will manage the program under the direction of the principal. Their membership and responsibilities are as follows:

A. Staff Development Team

The staff development team, comprised of the director of student personnel services, the director of special services, the school psychologist and the school social worker, is responsible for the design, implementation and training of the Counseling Team in techniques of paraprofessional grief counseling.

B. Communications Team

The communications team, comprised of the principal, director of student personnel services, school psychologist and one teacher, is responsible for verifying the occurrence of a tragic event, gathering pertinent details, notifying the staff that a tragedy has occurred, and notifying tile associate teams that the program is to be activated.

C. Arrangements Team

The arrangements team, comprised of the principal, the school psychologist and three staff members, is responsible for the program design and implementation of the program's formal arrangements pertaining to the tragic event.

D. Counseling Services

The counseling team, comprised of the child study team, the director of student personnel services, and trained staff, is responsible for conducting individual and group support counseling to bereaved students, families and staff.

The superintendent is directed to oversee the school response to tragic events.

Adopted:	May 19, 1988
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