

Student Welfare/Student Suicide Policy

The Monte Vista Board of Education recognizes that the rate of self destructive behavior is increasing among children and adolescents in this country. Students who experience depression are unable to benefit fully from the educational program of the school. Moreover, a student who attempts suicide poses a danger both to self and possibly to others.

Therefore, the Board of Education directs that all school personnel should be alert to the warning signs of childhood and adolescent suicide and the procedures to follow in the event of an actual attempt or completion. Such signs and behavior shall be taken seriously and reported to the school administration and Child Study Team who shall determine what further action is required. Other school staff may be used to Intervene or assist with such situations. If emergency intervention is required, the student shall be taken to the appropriate medical facility.

In incidents of such potential self-destructive behavior the student's parent(s) or guardian shall be notified immediately and their cooperation shall be sought for immediate Intervention. If the parent or guardian is unwilling to cooperate, the school administration shall contact appropriate agencies to request Intervention on the student's behalf and request a mental health evaluation by the San Luis Valley Mental Health Center. In cases of child abuse or neglect, school personnel are required to contact the Rio Grande Department of Social Services (Child Protection Act of 1987, Title 19. Article 3, Part 3).

The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to implement this policy and following procedures.

Adopted: 08/07/89