

SELF-ESTEEM PROMOTION/SUICIDE PREVENTION

Code **JLDBB** Issued **9/04**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision for the center's suicide awareness and prevention programs.

The board recognizes that suicide is a major killer of young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Therefore, the board empowers the director to initiate and continue appropriate awareness and prevention programs in the center.

The center staff, students and parents/legal guardians all can contribute significantly towards the prevention of adolescent suicide. The center will, therefore, consider each of these segments of the center community when developing its programs.

Since the necessary professional expertise to carry out such a program may not be adequately available within the center system, the director will identify local mental health agencies able to provide necessary assistance. The director will establish a continuing cooperative relationship with these agencies in this effort.

The program developed will include information that will help the center staff, parent/legal guardian, and students to do the following.

- Understand the developmental stages of adolescence.
- Understand how feelings of depression and despair can lead to suicide.
- Recognize the early warning signs of suicide.
- Learn how to help in a suicidal crisis.
- Identify community resources where teenagers can get help.
- Address the impact of such a tragedy.

Adopted 9/14/04