

## **INSTRUCTION**

### Guidance and Counseling

The district recognizes that guidance and counseling is an important part of the total program of instruction and should be provided in accordance with state laws and regulations, district policies and procedures, and available staff and program support.

The general goal of this program is to help students achieve the greatest personal value from their educational opportunities. Such a program should:

- A. Provide staff with meaningful information which can be utilized to improve the educational services offered to individual students.
- B. Provide students with planned opportunities to develop future career and educational plans.
- C. Refer students with special needs to appropriate specialists and agencies.
- D. Aid students in identifying options and making choices about their educational program.
- E. Assist teachers and administrators in meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of students.
- F. Provide for a follow-up of students who further their education and/or move into the world of work.
- G. Solicit feedback from students, staff and parents for purposes of program improvement.
- H. Assist students in developing a sense of belonging and self-respect.

All staff shall encourage students to explore and develop their individual interests in career and vocational technical programs and employment opportunities without regard to gender including reasonable efforts encouraging students to consider and explore "nontraditional" occupations for men and women.

Because the entire staff, as well as the students, can benefit from and contribute toward the prevention of adolescent suicide, the board directs the superintendent to develop and implement a comprehensive suicide awareness and prevention program. The program that is developed should help the school staff, parents and students to:

- A. Understand the developmental stages of adolescence and the causes of suicide.
- B. Recognize the early warning sign of suicide.
- C. Learn how to help in a suicidal crisis.
- D. Identify community resources and procedures that can help a suicidal person.
- E. Address the repercussions of such a tragedy.

In incidents of 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. In cases of child abuse or neglect, school staff is required to contact child protective services.

The board directs the superintendent to work with the staff, community and appropriate agencies to develop, implement and regularly evaluate this program.

Cross References:	Board Policy 3421	Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Prevention
Legal References:	Board Policy 4020	Confidential Communications
	RCW 28A.640.020	Regulating Guidelines to Eliminate Discrimination - Scope
	WAC 392-190-015	Counseling and Guidance - Duty of Certificated and Classroom
Management Information	Policy News, December 1999	Suicide prevention provisions reintroduced

**Date: 3/24/97; 3/25/02; 11/22/04.**

**PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50**