

SELF-ESTEEM PROMOTION/SUICIDE PREVENTION

Code **JLDBB** Issued **9/12**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision for the district's suicide awareness and prevention program.

The board recognizes that suicide is a major killer of young people between the ages of 10 and 24. The district staff, students and parents/legal guardians all can contribute significantly towards the prevention of adolescent suicide. Therefore, the board directs the superintendent to consider each of these segments of the school community when developing appropriate awareness and prevention programs in the district.

Local mental health agencies and training guidelines from the South Carolina Department of Education are resources that can provide the necessary assistance that will help the district staff, parents/legal guardians 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 students can obtain help.
- Address the impact of such a tragedy.

The superintendent will ensure implementation of the required training in this area for the renewal of credentials for individuals employed in a middle or high school.

Adopted 9/11/12

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
 1. Section 59-1-150 - Kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, secondary school, junior high school and high school defined.
 2. Section 59-26-110 - Jason Flatt Act; youth suicide prevention teacher training.