Suicidal Threat or Attempt

Critical Information
Writing, talking or even hinting about suicide must be taken seriously. Immediate intervention is essential. Student confidentiality is superseded by the need for student safety.

In the event a staff member believes a student is a suicide risk or has attempted suicide:

**Staff**
- Stay with the student until assistance arrives
- Notify school administration, counselor, social worker or school psychologist
- Ensure short-term physical safety of the student, provide first aid if needed
- Listen to what the student is saying and take the threat seriously
  - Assure the student of your concern
  - Assure the student you will find help to keep him or her safe
  - Stay calm and don’t visibly react to the student’s threats or comments
  - Do not let the student convince you the crisis is over
  - Do not take too much upon yourself. Your responsibility is limited to listening and providing support until the student can receive appropriate medical care or counseling

**Building Administration**
- Call 911 if the student needs medical attention, has a weapon, needs to be restrained or a parent or guardian cannot be reached
- Determine a course of action with social worker or other mental health professional
- Contact student’s parent or guardian and make appropriate recommendations
- Do not allow the student to leave school without a parent or guardian
- Notify district administration
- Document all actions
- Follow-up and monitor to ensure student safety
- Implement Recovery procedures

*School staff must exercise caution when discussing an attempted suicide or death by suicide with students. When the incident becomes public knowledge, it is best to request permission from the*
family to discuss it with students in order to address emotional reactions within the school community.