



Suicide Prevention

The Eagle Collegiate Academy (ECA) Board of Directors (Board) recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that school personnel who regularly interact with students, are often in a position to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to offer appropriate referral and/or assistance. To attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Chief Executive Officer or designee shall develop a plan for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all students at Eagle Collegiate Academy by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

In developing the plan for use by Eagle Collegiate Academy, the Chief Executive Officer or designee may consult with school counselors, school psychologists, administrators, other staff, parents/guardians, students, local health agencies, mental health professionals, and community organizations.

Such measures shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Maintaining a safe school environment designed to prevent violence, bullying, and the abuse of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs.
2. On-going staff development on suicide awareness and prevention. Staff shall include teachers, counselors, administrators and all other school employees who interact with students.
3. Instruction for students in problem solving and coping skills to promote students' mental, emotional and social health, and well-being, as well as instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to warning signs of suicidal intent in others.
4. Designing programs to promote a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school.
5. Strategies to engage parents/guardians, including providing information regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the youth suicide problem, Eagle Collegiate Academy's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis.
6. Encouraging students to notify appropriate school personnel or other adults when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions.
7. Crisis intervention procedures for staff to address and respond to suicide threats or attempts and assist students at risk of suicide.
8. Counseling and other postvention strategies for helping students, staff, and others cope in the aftermath of a suicide.

As appropriate, these measures and strategies shall specifically address the needs of students who are at high risk of suicide, including, but not limited to, students who are bereaved by suicide; students with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders; students who are experiencing homelessness or who are in out-of-home settings such as foster care; and students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning youth.