

Director Procedure Number: DC135
Title: Suicide Prevention and Self-harming Behavior
Section: Students

Suicide Prevention and Self-harming Behavior

EASTERN shall utilize a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention which integrates school and community-based supports.

1. Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Education

A. Protocols for Administration of Employee Education

As part of EASTERN's professional development plan, professional educators in the school building serving students shall participate in four (4) hours of youth suicide awareness and prevention training every five (5) years.

B. Resources for Parents/Guardians

EASTERN may provide parents/guardians with resources including, but not limited to, health promotion and suicide risk, characteristics and warning signs; and information about local behavioral/mental health resources.

2. Methods of Prevention

A. Early Identification Procedures

Early identification of individuals exhibiting any suicidal risk factors or of individuals exhibiting warning signs is crucial to EASTERN's suicide prevention efforts. To promote awareness, EASTERN employees, students and parents/guardians should be educated about suicidal risk factors and warning signs.

B. Referral Procedures for At-Risk Students

Any EASTERN employee or student who has identified a student with one (1) or more risk factors or who has any indication that a student may be contemplating suicide shall contact the Supervisor. The Supervisor will speak to the individual of whom the referral was made and will consult with the Student Success Coordinator, other Administrators or teachers to validate the concern.

The Supervisor will contact the parent to discuss concerns and ask the parent for an immediate conference. The student will leave with the parent.

The Supervisor will contact the student's District of Residence by contacting the student's High School Principal and/or Vice-Principal and/or Guidance Counselor for referral to the SAP Team.

EASTERN shall document the reasons for referral, including specific warning signs and risk factors identified as indications that the student may be at risk.

3. Reporting Procedures

When referring a student suspected of attempting suicide or engaging in self-harming behavior, the Supervisor, in consultation with the student's District of Residence-based mental health specialist or qualified medical personnel, will follow the following steps:

- contact the student's parents and/or guardians as listed in the student's emergency contact;
- do an initial risk assessment to determine the severity of the situation;
- report the behavior to the student's District of Residence by contacting the student's High School Principal and/or Vice-Principal and/or Guidance Counselor;
- refer according to the Student Assistance Procedure;
- protect the confidentiality of the student while addressing the concerns of any other child or children; and
- involve police or emergency services if student is in immediate danger and parents cannot be located or are unable or unwilling to help

EASTERN employees shall be responsible for effective documentation of incidents involving suicide prevention, intervention and response. The documentation of incidents should be provided to the student's District of Residence.

A. Re-Entry Procedures

A student's excusal from school attendance after a mental health crisis and the student's return to school shall be consistent with state and federal laws and regulations and with the recommendation of the student's District of Residence.

4. Suicide Awareness and Prevention Resources

EASTERN shall notify its employees, students and parents/guardians of this policy and shall post the policy on EASTERN's website.

A listing of resources regarding suicide awareness and prevention shall be attached to this policy.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1526
State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.12

Adopted: 9/9/15