

SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

Eagle Peak Board of Directors 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 School Director or designee shall develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

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

In developing measures and strategies for use by the School, the School Principal or designee may consult with MDUSD health professionals, MDUSD counselors, MDUSD school psychologists, MDUSD administration, 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 and other drugs.
2. Staff development on suicide awareness and prevention. Staff shall include teachers, administrators and all other School employees who interact with students.
3. Creating a protocol for response for staff to assist students at risk of suicide.
4. Instruction to 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.
5. Designing programs to promote a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with the school.
6. Strategies to engage parents/guardians, including the provision of information regarding risk factors and warning signs of suicide, the severity of the youth suicide problem, the district's suicide prevention curriculum, basic steps for helping suicidal youth, and/or school and community resources that can help youth in crisis

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 are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth.

WEB SITES

K–12 Toolkit for Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention <http://www.heardalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/HEARDToolkit2017.pdf>

Trevor Project: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/District-Policy.pdf>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>

Adopted: 10/16/18

Amended: