

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. This policy should be adopted by the Governing Board at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

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 policies for use by the School for grades 7 to 12, the School Director or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders, school health professionals, and suicide prevention experts.

In developing policies for use by the School for kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, the School Director or designee shall consult with school and community stakeholders, the county mental health plan, school mental health professionals and suicide prevention experts. This policy shall be age appropriate and delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. The policy shall also ensure proper coordination and consultation with the county mental health plan if a referral is made for mental health or related services on behalf of a student who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary.

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. All staff will participate training on suicide awareness and prevention.
3. Eagle Peak Montessori will adopt a detailed protocol detailing prevention as well as support to students upon return.
4. Maintaining a school culture that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with each other and the school.
5. Provide a list of resources to parents/guardians, 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.

6. Students shall have direct access to the school counselor as necessary.

The policy shall specifically address the needs of high-risk groups, including, but not limited to, all of the following: (A) Youth bereaved by suicide. (B) Youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders. (C) Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings, such as foster care. (D) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth.

Eagle Peak Montessori School will provide training through the Charter Safe organization. This training shall include how to identify appropriate mental health services, both at the school site and within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services.

Eagle Peak Montessori complies with the policy guidance required by California by following the Suicide Prevention Protocol designed through the Charter Safe organization.

School employees shall act only within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential or license. Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging a school employee to diagnose or treat mental illness unless the employee is specifically licensed and employed to do so.

The School's governing board shall review its policy on pupil suicide prevention at a minimum of every fifth year and, if necessary, update its policy.

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: 10/15/2024

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