

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Eastmont School Board of Directors recognizes that suicide prevention and the health of all students and staff is paramount. In addition, that any death of a student or staff member is an important and complex issue to be taken seriously. In both cases, the district’s action should be thoughtful, pre-planned, and sensitive to all affected.

It is understood that these events vary in nature and emotional impact – to include accidental death, suicide, rapid onset illness, sexual abuse, and prolonged terminal illness. In each case, the proximity to school campus, time of occurrence, and individual differences necessitate a standardized response, with the flexibility needed to target heightened areas of need.

In the case of suicide prevention, while staff may recognize warning signs, the district cannot provide in-depth mental health counseling. Instead, school staff who have knowledge of a suicide threat must take the proper steps to report this information to the building principal or designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student’s family, and appropriate resource services. Staff exhibiting these warning signs may be referred to the building principal or the executive director of human resources.

In the event of a student/staff death, a coordinated response will be launched to support students, staff, and the community. The superintendent will develop and implement procedures to achieve the board’s goals and objectives.

Cross References:

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| Board Policy 2140 | Guidance and Counseling |
| Board Policy 3207 | Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying |
| Board Policy 4260 | Use of School Facilities |
| Board Policy 6970 | Naming Facilities and Employee & Student Memorials |

Legal References:

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| RCW 28A.410.226 | Washington professional educator standards board — Training program on youth suicide screening — Certificates for school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors — Adoption of standards |
| RCW 28A.410.043 | School Counselor Certification |
| RCW 28A.320.127 | Plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students |

RCW 28A.320.1271

Model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students

Management Resources:

Policy & Legal News, July 2016

Policy & Legal News, December 2014

Policy & Legal News, April 2011