



Early College HS @ DSU

Board of Directors Policy

Section: Instruction
Title: Suicide Prevention
Policy #: 700-32
Date Approved: 12/21/15
Date Revised: 07/18/2021

Purpose

The Early College High School at Delaware State University recognizes the serious problem of youth suicide and acknowledges that providing this policy for our schools regarding youth suicide recognition and prevention is important. The school also acknowledges that youth suicide is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by the school alone. This Suicide Prevention Policy meets the requirement of 14 Del. C §4124, relative to Suicide Prevention. Early College High School at Delaware State University, based on state guidelines, will address youth suicide in the following ways.

A. Prevention:

1. Promote faculty awareness of the warning signs of suicidal behavior through the Delaware Department of Education mandated training and a building level prevention committee
2. Provide information about youth suicide to parents through a fact sheet contained in the student code of conduct
3. Implement evidence-based suicide prevention practices and/or programs for students as part of the curriculum.

B. Intervention:

1. Implement the uniform protocol established by the Early College High School at Delaware State University to respond to a potentially suicidal student

C. Postvention:

1. Implementation of the uniform protocol established by the Early College High School at Delaware State University of response to disseminate facts and to allow for the structured expression of grieving within the daily activity of the school (includes any sudden death of a student or staff person).

D. Resources:

1. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Suicide Prevention Resource Center, 2011. *After a suicide: A toolkit for schools*. Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Inc.
2. Poland, S & Liberman, R (2005), Best practices in suicide intervention. In Thomas, A & Grimes, J (Eds.), *Best practices in school psychology IV* (pp.1151-1166). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

Prevention

To promote faculty awareness of the warning signs of suicidal behavior through the Delaware Department of Education mandated training and professional development the following steps will be implemented:

1. All staff persons will receive within each contracted school year a total of 90 minutes of evidenced based professional development on suicide prevention as developed and/or approved by the Department of Health and Social Services the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families and the Department of Education.
2. A school level suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the School Leader. The suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of this policy.
3. The school leader shall designate a school suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in school for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation. Additionally, the school shall have a suicide prevention coordinating committee responsible for coordinating the prevention, intervention and postvention responses in the building. The school leader may wish to consider the following personnel for membership; school counselor/interventionist, nurse, behavioral health consultant, community based medical or mental health professional, school resource officer or anyone who might have insight into the prevention or recognition of the warning signs of youth suicide.
4. Information regarding youth suicide will be provided to parents through a fact sheet contained in the student code of conduct.
5. Implement evidence-based suicide prevention practices and/or programs for students in grades 9-12 as part of the curriculum.

Intervention

All school personnel will implement the uniform protocol established by the Early College High School at Delaware State University to respond to a potentially suicidal student. School protocol will include:

1. Identification (self-referral or referred by staff or students) of a student at risk for self-harm or harm for others
2. Staff intervention procedures
3. Parental notification procedures
4. Referrals for additional services

Any employee, school volunteer or student may report confidentially to a student's teacher(s) or building administrator their concern that a student may be contemplating some degree of self-harm or harm to others. No employee, school volunteer, or student shall be retaliated against for reporting a student thought to be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide to others.

Postvention

All School personnel will implement the uniform protocol established by the Early College High School at Delaware State University for post incident response. The School protocol will include:

1. Returning a student to school who has attempted suicide (including communication between school personnel and medical professionals who are involved in treating a student for suicide issues).
2. Disseminating facts after a student completes suicide.
3. Allowing for the structured expression of grieving within the daily activity of the school (includes any sudden death of a student or staff person).