



Suicide Prevention Policy

The Governing Board of Elite Academic Academy - Lucerne and Elite Academic Academy - Mountain Empire recognize that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that an even greater amount of youth consider (17 percent of high school students) and attempt suicide (over 8 percent of high school students) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015).

Recognizing that it is the duty of the district and schools to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its students, this policy aims to safeguard students and staff against suicide attempts, deaths and other trauma associated with suicide, including ensuring adequate supports for students, staff, and families affected by suicide attempts and loss. Protecting the health and well-being of all students is of utmost importance to EAA. The EAA governing board has adopted a suicide prevention policy which is intended to protect all students through the following steps:

1. Comprehensive psychoeducation on suicide prevention, developed from best practices, will be provided to all EAA staff. All EAA staff will learn about current statistics on youth suicide, risk and protective factors, recognizing warning signs of suicide, how to respond, how to seek help for their student, and resources available via the school and in the community.
2. Comprehensive psychoeducation on suicide prevention, developed from current best practices, will be provided to all EAA parents/guardians and students in grades 7-12. Students in grades 7-12 and their families will learn about recognizing and responding to warning signs of suicide, using healthy coping skills, the importance of support systems, and seeking help for themselves and friends.

This information will be provided at the beginning of each school year. It is the responsibility of each student's parent or guardian to review this information with them. If parents or guardians

have any questions about the material, they can contact the school's appointed suicide prevention liaison:

Melissa Schulze, MSW, PPSC
School Social Worker
mschulze@eliteacademic.com
(866) 354-8302 ext 789

3. For students in grades TK/K-6, comprehensive psychoeducation on suicide prevention will be made available to families to address risk and protective factors, warning signs, how to seek help, and available resources. This information emphasizes protective factors families can promote, like being involved in children's lives by providing structure, guidance, and consistent, fair discipline, modeling and teaching healthy social and coping skills, strengthening protective factors, and promoting the students' ability to seek help from trusted adults.

This information will be provided at the beginning of each school year. It is the responsibility of each student's parent or guardian to review this information. If parents or guardians have any questions about the material, they can contact the school's appointed suicide prevention liaison:

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4. The school has designated a suicide prevention coordinator, the school social worker, to serve as a point of contact for school staff to communicate with when students are in crisis and are in need of referrals to the appropriate resources for support.

5. When a student is identified as being at risk, they will be assessed by a school employed mental health professional (school social worker or counselor) who will work with the student and help connect them to appropriate local resources.

6. Students will have access to short-term mental health counseling and case management support through EAA's social worker or counselor. Students also have access to national resources which they can contact for additional support and information, such as:

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1.800.273.8255
The Trevor Lifeline via the Trevor Project – 1.866.488.7386
Crisis Text Line, text START to 741-741
Know the Signs Webpage at [Suicideispreventable.org](https://www.suicideispreventable.org)

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Website at <http://www.afsp.org/>
MY3 Website at <http://www.my3app.org/>

7. All students will be expected to help create a school culture of respect, empathy, and support in which students feel comfortable seeking help for themselves or friends. Students are encouraged to tell any staff member if they or a friend are feeling suicidal or in need of help.

8. Students should also know that because of the life or death nature of these matters, confidentiality or privacy concerns are secondary to seeking help for students in crisis.

9. For a more detailed review of the school policy, please see our full suicide prevention policy. This policy has been developed and adapted from the “Model School District Policy on Suicide Prevention,” which is a resource that outlines comprehensive model policies and best practices for schools to follow to protect the health and safety of all students. This resource was developed by examining strong local policies, ensuring that they are in line with the latest research in the field of suicide prevention, and identifying best practices for a national framework.