

APPENDIX C

EastSide Charter School Policy for Suicide Prevention

Eastside Charter School (ESCS) recognizes the serious problem of youth suicide and acknowledges that providing this policy for schools and districts related to youth suicide recognition and prevention is very important. ESCS and ESCS also acknowledge that youth suicide is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by the schools alone. This Suicide Prevention Policy (“Policy”) meets the requirements of 14 Del. C. § 4124, relative to Suicide Prevention.

The following procedures for communication between school staff members and healthcare professionals who are involved in treating students for self-harm, suicide attempt or threatening of either shall be followed:

1. ESCS’s process is to immediately report any student thought to be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide to the school nurse, school counselor, or principal. This may be done verbally initially; however, a written record of the report shall be prepared. A school employee, school volunteer or student is individually immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting warning signs of suicide in accordance with these procedures unless that reporting constituted gross negligence and/or reckless, willful or intentional conduct.
2. Healthcare Professionals. The primary contacts at ESCS are identified in Section 1 above. For a student who has not reached the age of 18, Release of Information forms shall be signed by the parent, guardian, or relative caregiver in order for the primary care physician or healthcare professional to communicate with school personnel regarding any treatment of a student. Notwithstanding the foregoing, communications between healthcare professionals and school staff regarding any treatment of a student may occur for any student 14 years or older who has provided consent for voluntary outpatient treatment in accordance with 16 Del. C. § 5003. In accordance with HIPAA and FERPA guidelines, releases shall be signed before communication may take place. Communications without signed releases in emergency situation may occur in accordance with HIPAA and FERPA regulations and guidelines.
3. If a parent refuses to sign a release form at school, the school will review this policy with them, explaining the reasons the release would be advantageous to the student.
4. After confirmation that a student has been involved in a suicide ideation or suicidal behavior, the student shall be evaluated by a licensed healthcare professional or a non-licensed healthcare professional working under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional.
5. The recommendations from the healthcare evaluation which are pertinent to managing the student’s risk in school shall be shared at a meeting between the student, parent/guardian, school nurse, school counselor or principal prior to the student's return to school. Recommendations will be shared with school personnel who are responsible for their implementation.
6. Emergency evaluations can be obtained from hospital emergency departments; a licensed healthcare professional; a physician; or nurse practitioner; or from the state’s Child Priority

Response Mobile Crisis Service if the student is under 18 years of age, or from the Adult Mobile Crisis Service if student is between the ages of 18-21.