

# EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## REGULATION No. 4.7

### TITLE: PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH SUICIDE: PREVENTION, INTERVENTION & POST-INTERVENTION.

#### DEFINITION:

Suicide is defined as, the purposeful act of causing one's own death. Attempted suicide is classified as a person engaging in life threatening behavior(s) intended to jeopardize their life through an act, threat or gesture per West Virginia House Bill 2535 (2015).

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/20/2026

#### PROCESS:

##### Prevention

Students will receive information via Suicide Prevention information sharing activities and events. New students will be provided with information via new student orientation. Other possible avenues include student email listserv, website and the campus student newsletter, and the television monitors around the main campus. The goal of the educational programming offered by Student Services is to promote understanding concerning the dynamics of suicide and to recognize behaviors that may signal suicidal intent. Flyers will be distributed providing information regarding depression, general principles about mental health, stress, and related topics to students' concerns.

Information will also be made available to faculty and staff regarding how to recognize behavior that may signal suicidal intent. Guidelines on intervention will also be shared with staff to provide them with the necessary information in relation to intervention.

##### Intervention

The following are guidelines for immediate and non-immediate intervention in the case of a suicide threat or attempt. It is recognized that special circumstances may arise which require deviation from these guidelines, and that administrative discretion must be exercised in these circumstances.

1. The VP of Academic and Student Services *or* designee will be notified immediately.
2. The VP of Academic and Student Services will notify medical emergency personnel. (as needed).
3. Emergency medical personnel will transport the student to the hospital for medical evaluation and mental health assessment upon arrival on campus.
4. The VP of Academic and Student Services, or designee, will contact the family of the student (once the situation is stable i.e. the student is no longer in danger) who threatened or attempted suicide, when appropriate, and will render support to family members and significant others as needed.

Approved by ACAC: 04/24/2026

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When the threat is not immediate, but suggested, the student will be referred to the VP of Academics and Student Services, or designee, that same day. An attempt will be made to set an agreed upon date by which the person will seek professional help. If the student refuses, then it becomes an immediate threat to their safety and should be treated as such.

**Post-Intervention/Clearance to return to school**

1. The student must provide documentation supporting the need for an excused absence, the day prior to *or* day of their return to campus.
2. The student may be asked to fill out a release of information to the professional who is currently treating the student if they desire additional counseling services.

**Intervening with a Suicide Threat:  
General Employee Procedure Check List**

*If a student has threatened suicide directly or indirectly, the following procedures are to be followed. Take all suicide threats seriously! A suicide threat is to be handled as a crisis intervention and potential medical emergency.*

1. Stay with the student or designate another Eastern employee to supervise the student constantly and without exception until help arrives.
2. Under no circumstances should the student be permitted to leave the school alone.
3. Do not agree to keep a student's suicidal intentions a secret.
4. If the student has the means to carry out the threatened suicide on their person, determine if they will voluntarily relinquish it. Do not force the student to do so. Do not place yourself in danger.
5. Take the student to an area away from others.
6. Notify the VP of Academics and Student Services, or designee immediately.
7. Inform the suicidal student that outside help has been called and describe the next steps in the plan.

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President

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