



# Respond Summary

## How do you RESPOND effectively?

Make time to connect with the student and then:

- **Speak privately.** Find a place to talk where you won't be interrupted.
- **Engage in a calm, supportive way.** Don't panic or rush the conversation. Relax and make eye contact with the student.
- **Listen** without interrupting and acknowledge the student's experience.
- **Show empathy.** Put yourself in the student's shoes and do your best to reflect, with your voice tone and body language, how the student is feeling.
- **Be direct.** Talk openly with the student. Don't be afraid to ask directly if the student is considering suicide. By asking, you allow open communication and provide hope.
- **Always ensure the student's safety.** If the student is at risk for suicide, never leave the student alone or send the student away.
- **Know how to contact a crisis team member.** Know who your crisis contacts are and when they are available.