

# Student & Staff Death Response Overview



Each individual in a school, District, and school community plays an essential role in supporting healing for those affected by a student or staff death. This document is meant to be a quick-reference guide for a caring school response.

“We want people to feel with us more than to act for us.” - George Eliot

School Administrators	School Mental Health Team	Other Staff members
<p>Leading a healing response requires full engagement, the best support any leader can offer individuals grieving a loss is to be present and engaged in the healing process.</p> <p><u>What to anticipate in your role:</u>  <b>Verify</b> the facts of the death  <b>Consult</b> with AOS &amp; District  <b>Contact</b> the family of the deceased  <b>Coordinate</b> meetings with faculty  <b>Communicate</b> facts and supports to school community  <b>Support</b> students and staff in their healing</p> <p><b>Helpful Handouts:</b>  <a href="#">School Procedures Checklist</a>  <a href="#">Needs Assessment</a>  <a href="#">Tips for faculty meeting</a>  <a href="#">Talking with a bereaved family</a></p>	<p>The school mental health team is vital to healing following a loss. The most helpful thing a school mental health team member can do is be present with those who are struggling.</p> <p><u>What to anticipate in your role:</u>  <b>Individual and group counseling Consultation requested</b> from administration, teachers, co-workers, and parents on how to support those affected  <b>Coordinating</b> care for students  <b>Following up</b> to meet ongoing needs</p> <p><b>Helpful Handouts:</b>  <a href="#">SMHT Checklist</a>  <a href="#">Caring for the caregiver</a>  <a href="#">Individual and group counseling</a>  <a href="#">Shared intervention tracker</a></p>	<p>Each person in a school community plays a role in supporting healing, a <b>proactive check in with individuals who are struggling is always appropriate</b>. While offering support in any role, ensure that individuals get to those that can help them the most.</p> <p><u>What to anticipate in your role:</u>  <b>Notice</b> those around you who may benefit from a check in  <b>Connect</b> those that you notice to appropriate help  <b>Maintain</b> routines while allowing some flexibility for those affected  <b>Take a breath</b>, you don't always have to have an answer</p> <p><b>Helpful Handouts:</b>  <a href="#">Tips for Secondary Teachers</a>  <a href="#">Tips for Elementary Teachers</a>  <a href="#">Tips for Front Office Staff</a>  <a href="#">Answering Student Questions</a>  <a href="#">Addressing Grief in Children</a></p>

Instead of	Try this
They're in a better place	I am here for you
At least they ...	I am so sorry
I know how you feel	When you're ready to talk I'm ready to listen
You'll be fine in no time	Tell me about this person (use their name)

Use [this link](#) for Additional Tools



“Grief shared is grief diminished” - Rabbi Grollman