

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> Verify the facts of the death Consult with AOS & District Contact the family of the deceased Coordinate meetings with faculty Communicate facts and supports to school community Support students and staff in their healing</p> <p>Helpful Handouts: School Procedures Checklist Needs Assessment Tips for faculty meeting Talking with a bereaved family</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> Individual and group counseling Consultation requested from administration, teachers, co-workers, and parents on how to support those affected Coordinating care for students Following up to meet ongoing needs</p> <p>Helpful Handouts: SMHT Checklist Caring for the caregiver Individual and group counseling Shared intervention tracker</p>	<p>Each person in a school community plays a role in supporting healing, a proactive check in with individuals who are struggling is always appropriate. 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> Notice those around you who may benefit from a check in Connect those that you notice to appropriate help Maintain routines while allowing some flexibility for those affected Take a breath, you don't always have to have an answer</p> <p>Helpful Handouts: Tips for Secondary Teachers Tips for Elementary Teachers Tips for Front Office Staff Answering Student Questions Addressing Grief in Children</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