



TRAGIC EVENTS RESPONSE

1.0 Rationale

District School Board Ontario North East is committed to ensuring the well-being of our students and staff. Therefore, all schools will have plans and supports in place to deal with tragic events.

Tragedies occur which affect the students and staff of a school. The task of coping with such tragedies is shared by the school and related professionals. An appropriate response will be determined by the facts of the events. A tragic event can trigger unresolved grief from previous losses, and we must be prepared to deal with both.

It is the responsibility of the school principal to develop a crisis management plan and to form a TRAGIC EVENTS RESPONSE TEAM (TERT) to carry out that plan. This ensures that schools are able to respond quickly and effectively to a tragedy. The attached procedure, the “Tragic Events Response Manual”, governs the response of the school or Board Office in the event of a tragedy.

2.0 Definitions

Tragic Event

A tragic event is a significant event that disrupts the emotional and physical well-being of students and staff members. Within this broad umbrella are crises and traumatic events, which may require somewhat different responses. A tragic event may include but is not limited to the following:

- death (expected or sudden) of a current or former student, staff member, parent or sibling of a student, spouse or child of a staff member, by any means;
- serious accident involving a student or staff member;
- serious illness of a student or staff member.

Tragic Event Response Team

The TRAGIC EVENTS RESPONSE TEAM (TERT) is composed of school staff members and supported by the Board Mental Health Team. The TERT will put a crisis management plan into effect and will provide leadership in a crisis. The TERT may also choose to seek support and resources from external agencies and partners.

Crisis Management Plan

A crisis management plan provides direction for the school during a crisis.

3.0 Policy

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